40th Anniversary Number

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The CRISIS

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40th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE [illegible] 51

EDITING "THE CRISIS"

W. E. B. DU BOIS

THE CRISIS, 1934-49

ROY WILKINS

WORKING ON "THE CRISIS"

GEORGE STREATOR

FORTY YEARS OF "THE CRISIS"

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

Crisis News Items — Forty Years Ago

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

(NAACP)

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Former U. S. Secretary of the Interior)

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2. To end peonage and the debt slavery of southern sharecroppers and tenant farmers.
3. To secure the vote for Negroes everywhere in the U. S.
4. To abolish injustices in legal procedure, particularly criminal procedure, based solely on color or race.
5. To secure equitable distribution of funds for education.
6. To abolish segregation, discriminaiton, insult and humiliation based on race or color.
7. To equalize the opportunity to work in all fields with equal pay for equal work.
8. To abolish discrimination against Negroes in the exercise of labor's right of collective bargaining through membership in organized labor unions.

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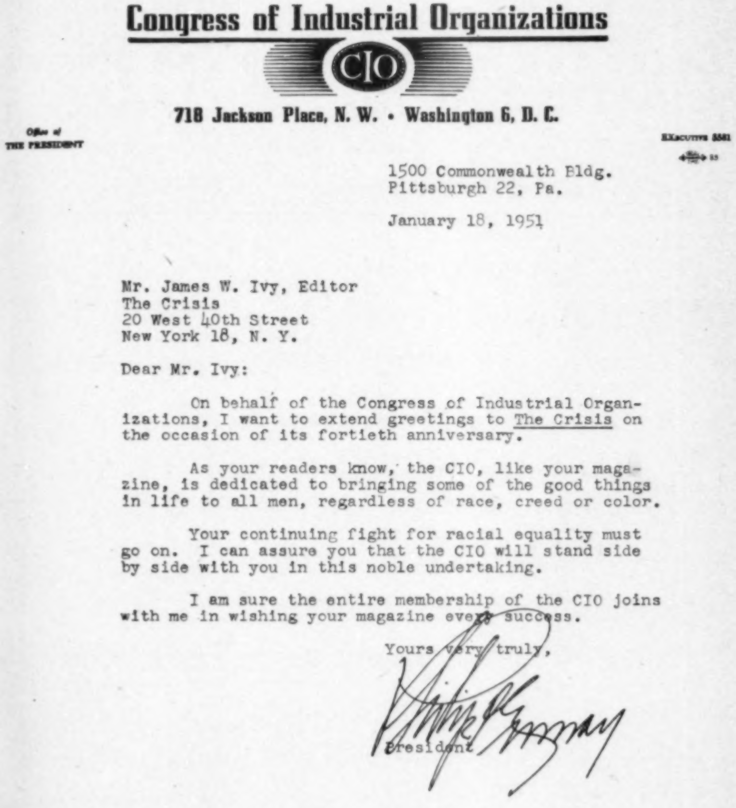

Congress of Industrial Organizations

CIO

718 Jackson Place, N. W. • Washington 6, D. C.

Office of
THE PRESIDENT

EXecutive 5581

1500 Commonwealth Bldg.
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

January 18, 1951

Mr. James W. Ivy, Editor
The Crisis
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ivy:

On behalf of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, I want to extend greetings to The Crisis on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

As your readers know, the CIO, like your magazine, is dedicated to bringing some of the good things in life to all men, regardless of race, creed or color.

Your continuing fight for racial equality must go on. I can assure you that the CIO will stand side by side with you in this noble undertaking.

I am sure the entire membership of the CIO joins with me in wishing your magazine every success.

Yours very truly,

Philip Murray

President

THE CRISIS

Founded 1910

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

Editor: James W. Ivy

Editorial Advisory Board: Lewis S. Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn,
Sterling A. Brown, Walter White, Carl Murphy

Vol. 58, No. 3 **Whole Number 481**

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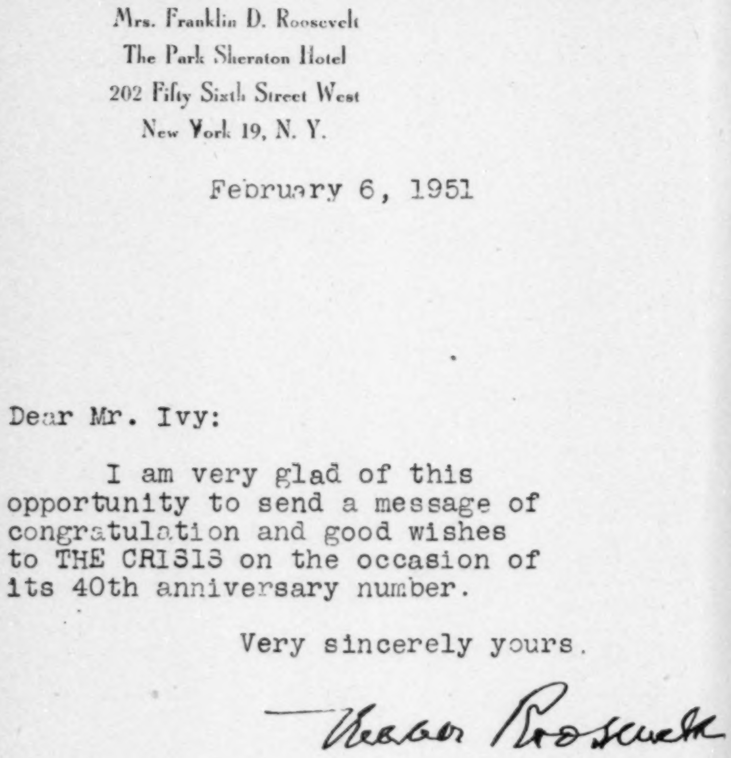


Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The Park Sheraton Hotel
202 Fifty Sixth Street West
New York 19, N. Y.

February 6, 1951

Dear Mr. Ivy:

I am very glad of this opportunity to send a message of congratulation and good wishes to THE CRISIS on the occasion of its 40th anniversary number.

Very sincerely yours.

Eleanor Roosevelt

On "The Crisis's" 40th Anniversary

C. C. DEJOIE, JR.

Editor, The Louisiana Weekly

We greet *The Crisis* on its 40th Anniversary with humility and pride and also with gratitude and thankfulness. Words, however, have such an empty sound unless they come from the heart with sincerest appreciation and accompanied by tangible evidence of sacrifice and praise.

We therefore inclose our check for $100 as a token of our esteem and as an annual contribution towards a greater and more far reaching service to mankind.

PAUL KELLOG

Editor, The Survey

You ask me to send greetings for the 40th anniversary issue of *The Crisis*. But how can I send you grand, good wishes for the next forty years when I've just sat in at the NAACP dinner in honor of Ralph Johnson Bunche — who knocked gradualism into a cocked hat? If he's right, the issues you have made your own should and will be won in double quick time. Here's to that outcome.

So I'll compromise in wishing strength to your elbows in bringing out a special number on the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation (which, the same, will be January 1, 1963)—one crammed with gains that, to use Dr. Bunche's phrase, will ring in "full and unqualified citizenship" for each and every man and woman in the USA.

Meanwhile, you'll let me look back a bit and doff my hat to the leaders you singled out in the brochure you brought out on the occasion of that dinner—twelve of them, women and men, Negro and white, living and dead—and a dozen more in your team play today.

I prize the times the paths of *The Crisis* and *The Survey* not only crossed but joined over the years; and am with you wholeheartedly that "So long as we labor to uphold the values they (these pioneers and their kind) represent, the freedoms we cherish will endure."

WILLIAM C. MATNEY, JR.

Managing Editor, Michigan Chronicle

We here in the State of Michigan regard *The Crisis* as one of the most important and influential publications in the United States. Therefore, it provides me with great pleasure to extend best wishes for the continued success of *The Crisis* from the executives and staff of the *Michigan Chronicle*.

May *The Crisis* remain at the same lofty position it has occupied during the past 40 years.

CECIL E. NEWMAN

Editor-Publisher, Minneapolis Spokesman, St. Paul Recorder

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of *The Crisis,* we extend our best wishes. We sincerely hope for *The Crisis* continued usefulness in interpreting and recording the hopes, aspirations, and advances of the colored people of the U. S. and the world.

The Crisis is an indispensable force in America, one which is not adequately appreciated by the millions it serves.

J. E. MITCHELL

Managing Editor, The St. Louis Argus

The St. Louis Argus and its staff send greetings to *The Crisis* magazine on the 40th anniversary of its long service in defense of the race. You have our best wishes for continued service in your chosen field.

MICHAEL STRAIGHT

Editor, The New Republic

I'm grateful for this opportunity to send greetings from one old fighting liberal paper to another.

I've just returned from a trip around the world. I've seen a thousand million eyes in Africa, Asia, the Near East, watching America, watching to see if we mean what we say when we say that our society is the one in today's struggle that stands for freedom and justice and human brotherhood.

We haven't proved ourselves yet to these peoples. Evidence of progress and not oratory interests them. Stories of racial tension in the U. S. may be back page stories from Portland to San Diego; but from Hawaii to Tangier they are front page stories. The colored millions who form the majority of the world's citizens are judging our *intentions* towards them by our *treatment* of our own colored Americans.

Every sign of discrimination drives them from western democracy. Every sign of progress brings them to our side. We need their support. It is the margin between war and peace, victory and defeat. For selfish reasons I want justice in America. Among the reasons I want it is because I want peace for my children.

I salute *The Crisis* on this anniversary and wish it years of continued success, because when it fights for justice in America it fights for me.

DR. C. B. POWELL

President and Editor,
New York Amsterdam News

Accept our congratulations upon your 40th anniversary. *The Crisis* together with its parent organization is accomplishing more and has done more for our progress than any other single institution. Keep punching!

EDWARD MURRAIN

Editor, The New York Age

The 40th anniversary issue of *The Crisis* is a milestone, not only in journalistic history, but in the history of the black man in the United States. A faithful review of the progress made by *The Crisis* through the years would mirror the bitter uphill fight by the dark races all over the world to gain their place in the sun.

As the editor of America's oldest Negro newspaper, it is only fitting that I take personal pride in adding my good wishes to *The Crisis* and the people who guide its destiny in this, its 40th year.

CARL MURPHY

President, Afro-American Newspapers

Two-score years ago when *The Crisis* was founded weekly newspapers had only a limited circulation and there were no monthly magazines of large influence.

No wonder its readers at that time hung on every word it printed and passed it from hand to hand as a cherished Bible.

The Crisis has had 40 years of honorable and significant publication.

Under its new editor, I hope it will catch fire again and blaze a bright pathway through the journalistic skies.

JOHN H. SENGSTACKE

Publisher and Editor,
The Chicago Defender

Over the years, *The Crisis* magazine has engraved an outstanding record of far-reaching, penetrating opinion and information, valuable to the forward march toward complete democracy and full citizenship for all Americans.

The Chicago Defender, as a newspaper now in its 47th year of publication, is proud to pay tribute to a fellow member of the fourth estate —the member which has long served as clarion and spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Your service has helped to carry vital Truth into the far corners of our American scene, creating an echo that has been heard wherever free men courageously protect their liberty.

The Chicago Defender is proud of your accomplishments and, as a member of one of America's most sacred institutions, the Press, we are honored to share with you the spotlight that is focused on your many activities in this, your 40th anniversary. We congratulate you.

ROBIN MYERS

Editor, The Socialist Call

The Socialist Call extends heartiest greetings to *The Crisis* on the completion of forty years of service in the cause of humanity and equality. The progress of this cause over these four decades bears eloquent witness to the effectiveness of your tireless and fearless work, while the shame of discrimination that still mars our democracy demands that your work be intensified. We have been proud to join with you in fighting for a better world. And we greet you on this anniversary with the confidence that together—as part of the free press zealous for human liberty, we shall move forward to that brotherhood of all men which is our common goal.

May I say also that, as an NAACP member for many years myself, I find it invaluable for keeping in touch with both progress and problems in inter-relations. So I'll add personal congratulations on your anniversary.

GEORGE K. HUNTON

Secretary, Catholic Interracial Council

Extending heartiest congratuations to *The Crisis* on the completion of forty years of distinguished public service in the field of race relations! Best wishes for the years ahead.

THE EDITORS

The New Leader

The New Leader takes great pleasure in greeting, upon its Fortieth Anniversary, a true comrade-in-arms in the never-ceasing struggle to extend the blessings of democracy to all men everywhere, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. We salute *The Crisis* for the invaluable contribution it has made toward this goal, and trust that its next four decades will witness the final fruition of its—and our labors.

EUSTACE GAY

Editor, Philadelphia Tribune

The *Philadelphia Tribune,* second oldest Negro secular newspaper now being published in the United States, is happy to join in congratulating *The Crisis* upon its 40th anniversary.

It has been our privilege to watch and admire *The Crisis* from its first issue. As a fellow publication we have appreciated the great work which *The Crisis* as the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has done to help all Americans, regardless of color, to lay hold of the God-given rights and privileges of American Citizens.

We extend to you on this 40th anniversary our hearty and sincere wishes for a gloroius future.

JESSIE FAUSET HARRIS

Former Literary Editor, The Crisis

I loved the work—and the organization and the cause always have my very best wishes.

WILLIAM G. NUNN

Managing Editor,
The Pittsburgh Courier

The *Courier* is happy to join millions of Americans in congratulating *The Crisis* for having been a beacon light in behalf of the social, economic and educational advancement of the Negro in America. Your illuminating editorials and staunch devotion to high principles of leadership have made *The Crisis* a vital factor in the welfare of our people through the years.

The *Courier* joins in wishing you and the NAACP many more years of leadership.

ROSCOE DUNJEE

Editor, The Black Dispatch

Among submerged groups there are far too many, who for selfish and mercenary reasons set their sails to catch the passing breeze. On its 40th anniversary I salute *The Crisis* as an organ whose publishers have across the years been as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice in attack upon second class citi-

(*Continued on page* 213)

■ **The founder of *The Crisis* reviews twenty-four years of editing**

Editing "The Crisis"

By W. E. B. Du Bois

FROM the time I entered High School at Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1880, I have had the itch to edit something. The first fruition was a school paper, in manuscript, called the "High School Howler," edited by me and illustrated by Art Benham, who could draw caricatures. It had as I remember but one issue.

My next effort was while I was a student at Fisk University and I became, first, exchange editor and then editor of the *Fisk Herald*, during my junior and senior years, 1887-1888.

The next adventure was the monthly called *The Moon*, which was published by Harry Pace and Edward Simon in Memphis and edited by me in Atlanta in 1906. From 1907 to 1910, I was joint editor of a miniature magazine, published monthly in Washington, D. C. My co-laborers were H. M. Hershaw and F. H. M. Murray.

DR. WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHARDT DU BOIS *founded The Crisis in one room of the Evening Post building at 20 Vesey Street, New York City, in November 1910 and edited the magazine until his resignation on June 26, 1934.*

In 1910, I came to New York as Director of Publications and Research in the NAACP. The idea was that I should continue the kind of research into the Negro problem that I had been carrying on in Atlanta and that eventually I should become Secretary of the NAACP. But I did not want to raise money, and there were no funds for research; so that from the first, I urged that we have a monthly organ.

This seemed necessary because the chief Negro weekly *The New York Age* was then owned by friends of Mr. Washington, and the Tuskegee organization had tight hold of most of the rest of the Negro press. The result was that the NAACP got a pretty raw deal from the colored press and none at all from the white papers.

In addition to that the Negro press was at the time mainly organs of opinion and not gatherers of news.

STRESSED FACTS

I had the idea that a small publication would be read which stressed the facts and minimized editorial opinion, but made it clear and strong; and also published the opinion of others.

There were many on the board of directors who did not agree with me. I remember Albert Pilsbury, former Attorney General of Massachusetts, wrote to me and said: If you have not already determined to publish a magazine, for heavens' sake drop the idea. The number of publications now is as many as the "plagues of Egypt!" But I was firm, and back of me stood William English Walling, Paul Kennedy, Charles Edward Russell and John E. Mulholland and other members of the board.

NO CAPITAL

But there again the matter of money was difficult. It was hard enough to raise the salaries of our two executive officers, and certainly we had no capital for investment in a periodical. I was persistent and two persons helped me: Mary Maclean, an English woman who was a writer on the *New York Times* and a loyal and efficient friend; and Robert N. Wood, a printer who was head of the Negro Tammany organization at that time.

Wood knew about printing and I knew nothing. He advised me, helped me to plan the magazine, and took the risk of getting me credit for paper and printing. The Board agreed that it would be responsible for debts up to but not exceeding $50.00 a month. It has always been a matter of pride to me that I never asked for that $50.00.

Finally after what seemed to me interminable delays on various accounts, the first number of the CRISIS appeared in November, 1910. It had sixteen 5x8 pages, with a cover which carried one little wood-cut of a Negro child; as one of my critics facetiously said: "It is a shame to take the ten cents which this issue costs."

First because of the news which it contained, in 4 pages of "Along the Color Line"; then because of some blazing editorials which continually got us into hot water with friends and foes; and because of the pictures of Negroes which we carried in increasing number and often in color, the CRISIS succeeded.

We condensed more news about Negroes and their problems in a month than most colored papers before this had published in a year. Then we had four pages of editorials, which talked turkey. The articles were at first short and negligible but gradually increased in number, length, and importance; but we were never able to pay contributors. Pictures of colored people were an innovation; and at that time it was the rule of most white papers never to publish a picture of a colored person except as a criminal and the colored papers published mostly pictures of celebrities who sometimes paid for the honor. In general the Negro race was just a little afraid to see itself in plain ink.

CIRCULATION GROWTH

The circulation growth of the CRISIS was extraordinary, even to us who believed in it. From a monthly net paid circulation of 9,000 copies in 1911, it jumped to 75,000 copies in 1918, and from an income of $6,500 to an income of $57,000. In January 1916, the CRISIS became entirely self-supporting, paying all items of its cost including publicity, light, heat, rent, etc., and the salaries of an editor and business manager and nine clerks. It circulated in every state in the union, in all the insular possessions, and in most foreign countries including Africa.

We doubled the size of the tiny first issue in December, 1910. We increased the number of pictures, trying two-color jobs on the cover in 1911 and three colors in 1912, 1917-1918. Our special education and children's numbers began in 1914. From time to time we issued special numbers on localities like Chicago and New Orleans; on "Votes for Women" and the pageant "Star of Ethiopia."

INDISPENSABLE PERSONS

During this period two persons were indispensable in the conduct of the CRISIS: Mary Maclean, editorial assistant, who died in harness and worked without pay; and Augustus Dill, business manager, who organized a model office. In November, 1919, Jessie Fauset became literary editor and gave us inestimable help for seven years. Mattie Allison and Lottie Jarvis as secretaries, and Hazel Branch as head of the clerical staff, helped make an ideal family. Frank Turner was our bookkeeper from 1910 until the NAACP took him over in 1922.

We reached a circulation of 100,000 in 1919, following my revelation of the attitude of American army officers toward the Negroes in France. I shall never forget the circumstances of that scoop. I was in the office of Blaise Diagne in the spring of 1919. Diagne was a tall, thin, black Senagalese, French Under-Secretary of State for Colonies, and during the war, French Commissioner in West Africa, out-ranking the Colonial Governor. Diagne saved France by the black shock troops which he brought from Africa and threw against German artillery. They held the Germans until the Allies could get ready for them.

Diagne was consequently a great man and it was his word which induced Prime Minister Clemenceau to let the First Pan-African Congress meet in Paris against the advice of the Americans. Diagne did not like white Americans.

"Did you see," he stormed, "what the American Mission told the French about the way Negroes should be treated?" Then he showed me the official document. I read it and sat very still. Then I said, as carelessly as possible, "Would it be possible to obtain a copy of this?" "Take that," said Diagne.

Having the precious document, the problem was what do do with it. I dare not carry it nor trust it to the mails. But a white friend who was sailing home offered to take anything I wished to send. I handed him the document sealed, neglecting to say what dynamite was in it. The CRISIS office and NAACP officials read it and dropped it until I returned. I published it in May, 1919. The Post Office promptly held the CRISIS up in the mails. But it proved too hot for them; if the Government held it that would be acknowledging its authorship. They let it go. We sold 100,000 copies!

HIGH-WATER MARK

Our income in 1920, was $77,000, that was our high-water mark. Then began a slump which brought the circulation down to 35,000 copies in

1924 and a cash income of $46,000.

The causes of this were clear and strike every modern periodical: the reading public is not used to paying for the cost of the periodicals which they read; often they do not pay even for the cost of the paper used in the edition. Advertisers pay for most of the costs and advertisers buy space in periodicals which circulate widely among well-to-do persons able to buy the wares offered. The CRISIS was known to circulate among Negro workers of low income. Moreover it antagonized many white powerful interests; it had been denounced in Congress and many respectable Negroes were afraid to be seen reading it. Mississippi passed laws against it and some of our agents were driven from home.

We got some advertising, especially from Negro businesses; some advertisers we refused because we did not like the wares they offered or suspected fraud. The "Big" advertisers remained aloof; some looked us over, but nearly all fell back on the rule not to patronize "propaganda" periodicals. Beside they did not believe the Negro market worth entering.

Our only recourse was to raise our price of subscription. In December 1919 we raised our price to a dollar and a half for a year and fifteen cents a copy; also we increased our size to 64 pages and cover. This might have extricated us if the prices of everything else had not gone up, while wages went down. The depression which burst on the nation in 1929, started among Negro workers as early as 1926. It struck the workers of the Negro race long before the country in general dreamed of it. I remember bringing the matter to the attention of the president of the board of directors, but he said "the country is unusually prosperous!" Nevertheless, I retorted, the Negro worker is losing old jobs and not getting new ones.

OPINION OR PROPAGANDA

There was a wider underlying cause: How far was the CRISIS an organ of opinion and propaganda; and of whose opinion and just what propaganda? Or how far was it an organ of an association catering to its immediate plans and needs? The two objects and methods were not incompatible with each other in the earlier days of beginnings. Indeed from 1910 to 1925 or later the CRISIS was the predominant partner, with income and circulation larger than the income and membership of the NAACP. For just this reason the NAACP became known outside its membership, and with the energetic work of Shillady, Johnson, and White, the membership and income increased and the question of the future relation of the CRISIS and the NAACP had to be settled. Their complete separation was proposed; or if the income of the CRISIS continued to fall, the subsidy of the CRISIS by the NAACP; or further attempt to prolong the present relations and increase CRISIS income and circulation.

From 1925 to 1934, the latter method was tried. Various efforts were made to increase CRISIS circulation, by change of form and content. Considerable success ensued, but the depression which now fell heavier on the nation, convinced me that the CRISIS could not be made to pay again for a long period and that meantime the only way to keep it alive was by subsidy from the NAACP. For this reason in 1934, I gave up my position as editor and publisher of the CRISIS and went back to teaching and writing at Atlanta University.

In the nature of the case, there is a clear distinction between an organ of an organization and a literary magazine. They have different objects and functions. The one is mainly a series of reports and records of organizational technicalities and news notes of methods and routine notices. All large organizations need such a publication. But it is never self-supporting nor widely read. So far as it tries to be literary and artistic, it misses its main function and is too narrow to achieve any other.

FREE LANCE OR NOTHING

On the other hand, a literary and news journal must be free and uncontrolled; in no other way can it be virile, creative, and individual. While it must follow an ideal, and one of which one or more organizations approve, yet its right to deviate in particulars must be granted, else it misses its function of provoking thought, stimulating argument, and attracting readers. For many years the NAACP gave me such freedom and the public repaid them and me by wide support. But when public support lagged and the NAACP must furnish a large part of the supporting funds, it would have called for more faith than any organization was likely to have in one man, to leave me still in untrammeled control. And as for me, I had no inter-

(*Continued on page* 213)

This is the lead editorial from the first issue of THE CRISIS, *November 1910, setting forth the purposes of the magazine*:

THE CRISIS

THE object of this publication is to set forth facts and arguments which show the danger of race prejudice, particularly as manifested to-day toward colored people. It takes its name from the fact that the editors believe that this is a critical time in the history of the advancement of men. Catholicity and tolerance, reason and forbearance can to-day make the world-old dream of human brotherhood approach realization; while bigotry and prejudice, emphasized race conciousness and force can repeat the awful history of the contact of nations and groups in the past. We strive for this higher and broader vision of Peace and Good Will.

The policy of THE CRISIS will be simple and well defined:

It will first and foremost be a newspaper: it will record important happenings and movements in the world which bear on the great problem of inter-racial relations, and especially those which affect the Negro-American.

Secondly, it will be a review of opinion and literature, recording briefly books, articles, and important expressions of opinion in the white and colored press on the race problem.

Thirdly, it will publish a few short articles.

Finally, its editorial page will stand for the rights of men, irrespective of color or race, for the highest ideals of American democracy, and for reasonable but earnest and persistent attempts to gain these rights and realize these ideals. The magazine will be the organ of no clique or party and will avoid personal rancor of all sorts. In the absence of proof to the contrary it will assume honesty of purpose on the part of all men, North and South, white and black.

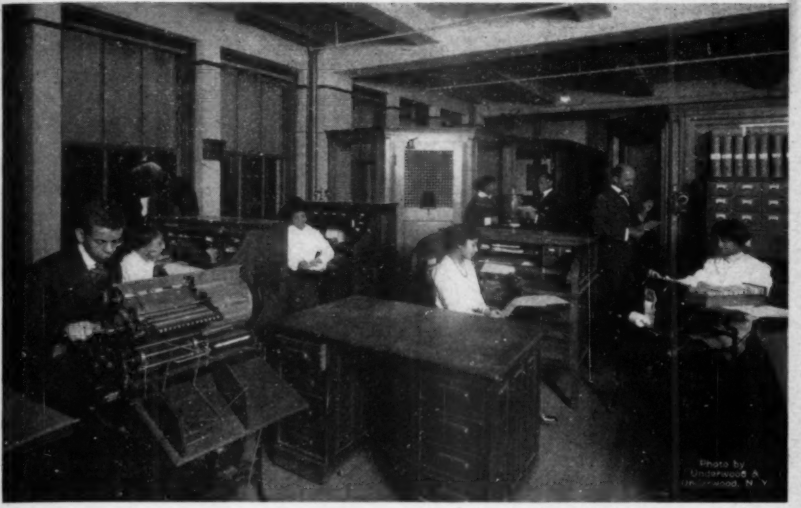
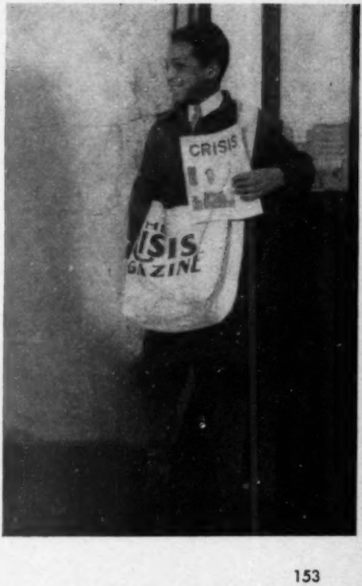


Photo by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

CRISIS OFFICE *forty years ago when the magazine was published from 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Dr. Du Bois is shown standing in the right background with telephone receiver in his hand. At right is* **CLYDE BROADUS,** *one of the many hundreds of* CRISIS *agents who helped distribute the magazine in its early years.*



←

DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS, CRISIS *editor for twenty-four years* (1910-1934).

■ **The role of The Crisis from 1934 on**

The Crisis, 1934-49

By Roy Wilkins

IN September, 1934, the circulation of *The Crisis* stood at 8,500 copies monthly. From there it was slowly and painfully built up to 19,000, and then, under the stimulus of the war years, to 60,000, with an income of $73,514.82. It has tapered off since that peak, but it still has a responsive group of readers, largely, but not entirely, within the membership of the NAACP.

Like all publications in behalf of "causes" *The Crisis* has had a constant struggle to keep alive. Especially has this been true since the middle Twenties. From its founding in 1910 to about 1927, *The Crisis* was that phenomenon among magazines of its type: self-supporting. Two factors accounted for this. One was the brilliant, bitter and poetic writing of DuBois. The other was the news carried by the magazine. At the time of *The Crisis* heyday, DuBois was a gladiator doing battle against the intrenched thinking of the time. He was the champion of Negro Americans. Joe and Mary Doaks, colored, knew how they felt and knew that the whites were wrong and unjust, but they could not find the right words to express themselves. DuBois had the words. Moreover, DuBois had the answers to any and all white folk and their arguments. And DuBois could give those answers superbly and completely, in speech or in writing. So they bought *The Crisis* to see what DuBois had to say.. Even though few of them ever got close to him, either physically or mentally, he was their knight and his pen was their lance in the desperate battle with the dragon of prejudice and proscription.

But most of them bought *The Crisis* because it brought them news of people and events Along the Color Line, in America and abroad. In no other place could they get such news. In the Twenties, however, when the Negro press began to expand, the news columns of *The Crisis* lost their magic. Insofar as they summarized, or classified or interpreted news they retained a following. But when Negro newspapers expanded their coverage of local and national events, with pictures and special articles each week, the

---

ROY WILKINS *edited* THE CRISIS *for fourteen years.*

monthly *Crisis* news coverage was doomed. If it had had the money it might have become a kind of Negro TIME, but it did not have the resources.

So in 1934 with the departure of Dr. DuBois for the sanctuary of Atlanta University, the 8,500 circulation, the debts, and the gloomy future of the magazine fell into my hands. The big job was keeping alive. The NAACP guaranteed the debts, but *The Crisis* had to pay them off. I still remember the monthly nightmare of a $50 note to take care of a back printing bill. That note seemed to run forever. The new editor's "salary" was $75 a month—$5 more than was being paid the stenographer.

Progress was difficult because *The Crisis* was trying to be two magazines in one. It was the official organ of the NAACP and it was carrying on the tradition of being a magazine of general discussion. Since the NAACP was now its financial backer (under DuBois *The Crisis* was run as a completely separate enterprise) this Association wanted more NAACP material in its pages, also more popular matter—not so much high literary content. In fact, to recover lost circulation, we had to carry more popularly written material, for the devotees of fine writing have never been able, alone, to keep a "cause" magazine going. We had no money to pay for articles and pictures and the whole task was a struggle from one issue to the next. The purchase of a new typewriter was a great triumph. The squeezing out of a $5 raise for the clerks was a miracle.

Our content concerned itself with the problems of the day, and these in the Depression were many: employment, relief projects, participation in local, state and national efforts, discrimination, segregation, lynching education, housing and the ballot.

The pre-war years saw a consistent emphasis on the fight for employment in defense industries and for abolition of segregation in the armed forces. The employment fight was not to be cracked open until the pressure campaign of A. Philip Randolph, and the March-on-Washington Movement in cooperation with the NAACP in 1941, culminating in the FEPC order of June 25.

CONTINUING BATTLE

The fight against humiliation and injustice in the armed services was a continuing battle. Pictures, editorials, articles, Congressional debates, stories from Britain, pronouncements of the Nazis—all these and many more were blended into a steady stream of pressure toward the goal. *The Crisis* participated in the conference of editors in Washington the day after Pearl Harbor, pressing the case for no segregation.

The editorial of January, 1942, "Now Is the Time Not to Be Silent," set the tone for the war years. There was to be in this war no "Close Ranks" with the enemies of civil rights, no truce in the continuing campaigns. *The Crisis* was one of the first, if not the first, magazine in America to carry an article of protest on the internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry in concentration camps.

Along with the crusading there appeared feature articles, special reports, news from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Also poetry and fiction, news of the NAACP activities, and sketches of successful personalities.

Some of our fiction was cited in various collections of "Best Short Stories of the Year." One story, "On Saturday the Siren Sounds at Noon," won for Ann Petry an interview with a publisher which led directly to her first novel, *The Street.* In this accomplishment *The Crisis* was continuing the DuBois tradition of giving young writers a start. It recalled the publication in 1921 of "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," by Langston Hughes, the first publication of Mr. Hughes by any magazine.

In yet another sphere we followed *Crisis* tradition. During the first World War the magazine was removed from the mails for a time. We were not that fortunate in this period, but we were barred from the schools of the District of Columbia on a charge of printing "Objectionable matter." Included in this characterization was a poem on the thoughts of a Negro while reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

POSTWAR YEARS

In the postwar years *The Crisis* has been caught in the web of rising costs while holding to its pre-war subscription and sales price. It has believed that the lowest possible price should be maintained for a magazine with a message; that if the price is increased, the reading audience is decreased. The increase in the NAACP minimum membership fee to $2, bringing the combination membership-subscription to $3.50, has resulted in a decrease in circulation in the past two years, since the vast majority of *The Crisis* circulation comes through the NAACP membership.

Advertising income is at a minimum not only because of the small circulation, but because advertisers shy away from a publication speaking for a "cause" organization. Negro advertisers, if they were so moved, could support *The Crisis* with advertising in frank recognition of the fact that while they might not be getting full return value for the money spent, they would be maintaining a voice for the welfare and advancement of the race.

For, even with the fine commercial magazines which have grown up in the race in the past ten years, there must be a publication of the type of *The Crisis.* It is the oldest continuously-published Negro magazine in the nation. Its pages contain serious discussion of the problems of a group, enunciate a philosophy, and record progress in the struggle toward full citizenship. Subsidized or unsubsidized, it must continue to speak until the crusade, begun in its pages in 1910, is brought to a victorious end.

ROY WILKINS, Crisis *editor for fourteen years* (1936-1950).

H. Lambert

RAFFLE BENEFITS NAACP—*Rufus W. Smith (center), director of fund-raising of the NAACP, looks pleased as he accepts a check for $75 from Ernest K. Settle (left) and Emile Van Leeuwen, proprietors of Settles Furrier in Plainfield, N. J. At a fashion show held in the Imperial Statesman's Lounge of New York City's International Hotel, the furriers raffled off a summer ermine wrap to collect funds for the Association. The affair was held under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Bosley Hubert.*

- **What it meant to work on *The Crisis* seventeen years ago**

Working on "The Crisis"

By George Streator

AS a former business manager and managing editor of *The Crisis* in 1933-1934, I felicitate the magazine for having lasted forty years. Propaganda papers rarely last that long. Currents of opinion change. Sponsors die out. Friends fight among themselves. Their successors never recover the old zeal. Hence, forty years, a long time, should be celebrated; especially these days when some go forward and others go back, and many more are being totally exterminated in the process.

Seventeen years have passed since my brief stay of eleven months. I went there from Bennett College, not knowing that W. E. B. DuBois was not to be at *The Crisis* much longer! It turned out to be a dismal year for me, and a sad year for many other people. I regret that Dr. DuBois did not weather the depression and the politics of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, without getting involved in the machinations of the Communist Party of the United States and its parent body, the Communist Government of Russia. But that is another story, and, as DuBois used to write, "more of that anon."

The entry of Dr. DuBois into the adventures of the leftist party was a sort of "yes and no" affair during my months there; and, oddly enough, the great controversy between Dr. DuBois and the NAACP national secretary, Mr. Walter White, was around various interpretations of "segregation" — jim crow, in short — with Dr. DuBois accused of going back on his great principles, and advocating a sort of nation within the nation for the Negro people of the United States.

I interpreted DuBois then as a quite practical person who was trying to arouse southern Negro leaders to a general mental housecleaning. To me he was saying through the monthly *Crisis* editorial, that the race must face reality and strengthen its position.

"You have a jim-crow college,"

GEORGE W. STREATOR *was business manager, then managing editor of* THE CRISIS *in* 1933-34. *He resigned with Dr. Du Bois in* 1934. *Mr. Streator now edits* THE PILOT, *official journal of the National Maritime Union.*

he was saying, "but do not defile it. Make it a good college. Set standards that are high. It is still possible for Negro teachers to send out refined, cultured and practical students." A sort of lift-by-bootstraps argument. Truly, a refined Booker T. Washington! Instead of marching with broomsticks, Dr. DuBois was seeking to have our not too far-sighted Negro college presidents march with chemical formulae, mathematic equations, a knowledge of science and languages, etc.

I also joined heartily in praise of Dr. DuBois for those editorials which posed the black-mulatto question. I had no illusions about the pettiness and meanness of the almost-white Negroes, and their control of Negro affairs in most areas of the South. At the same time, however, I was aware of the sordidness of the color fight within the ranks of colored people, knowing that a transfer to this country of West Indian and South American color attitudes would make for the future a world of ambitious and vicious near-whites.

It seemed to me that Dr. DuBois was also right in his criticisms of the so-called disciples of Booker T. Washington who tied handkerchiefs around their brows and bled the charity funds and the research funds for their own clique!

SOMETHING OF GARVEY

In the DuBois who ruled *The Crisis* during my brief stay, there was a little of the Marcus Garvey whom he had attacked, and not too wisely, a few years before. There was certainly very little difference between Garvey's "black nationalism" and DuBois's "talented tenth." Garvey, a peasant, saw through the eyes of tradesmen; DuBois, a scholar, reasoned as a schoolmaster. Working clothes were out of DuBois's life, and such vulgarities as trade unions, trade education, etc., he never understood. Neither did the NAACP or *The Crisis*.

I belabor these points of view because I do not believe that the NAACP and *The Crisis* have been freed of a point of view long out of date. There is almost no awareness today of organized labor in the ranks of the NAACP, and, certainly little in The CRISIS; certainly little that inspires educated Negro youths to find a place in organized labor, especially our bewildered young educated men.

The days of 1933-1934 with *The Crisis* were days of disillusion for me. I found out that race relations was a closed industry, actually controlled by sycophants with pressed trousers. Young Negro men entered the interracial work only to be starved out until they conformed. Because interracial work was and remains an industry, there are vested interests. In a sense, DuBois bolted the vested interests, but in the long run gave in to other powerful interracial cliques which are controlled by the Communist Party of the United States.

He must have believed that there was little choice, that a Negro scholar would either work for the old Negro college cliques, or work for organizations controlled by the Communist Party.

In that period, Dr. DuBois, in spite of his vanity and arrogance, convinced me that he tried to be independent of the Rosenwald Fund crowd, the General Education Board crowd and the powerful "interracial" group made up mostly of former Negro YMCA secretaries.

HAPPY AT ATLANTA

When he was at Atlanta University he was happy as long as President John Hope lived, and he was in many senses, a free man. When Dr. Hope died, DuBois was too weak for the young Negro beggars who ruled the faculty for the Rockefeller interests. At least, that is the way I saw it then, and I have hardly changed my point of view now.

This struggle between Negro community leaders and the Education and interracial vested interests calls for an extended treatment, and is important to *The Crisis*. I do not know how the NAACP can continue to side-step this problem, nor do I know that the NAACP will ever discover the wider interests of the Negro working classes.

When I was at *The Crisis* I tried to stimulate these interests, but the Negro school teacher is a school teacher after all, just like the white school teacher, and his interests are for his own class or category, except, of course, when he goes directly into labor organizations and loses most, if not all, his school teacher friends and associates.

The Crisis was able to satisfy the Negro school teachers, especially those in the South, and gave them hope, and Thurgood Marshall and some of his predecessors gave them high wages, or at least wages equal to those enjoyed by white people, in most of the large cities of the South. *The Crisis* must work as hard for labor.

How *The Crisis* will bridge the gap between Negro school teachers and the Negroes now in organized labor, without paralyzing the Negro labor leaders, and playing the game of the Communists and the "fellow travelers," remains to be seen. The job is not a trivial undertaking.

I am happy to see *The Crisis* prosper. More power to you.

* * *

We Stand Together

Ever since our union was founded, nearly 12 years ago, TWUA-CIO has fought for the moral principle of brotherhood and the legal principle of equal rights and equal opportunity for all. *The Crisis* has been waging the same battle for 40 years, and we are happy to note that time has not diminished its stubborn gallantry. Yet we do not wish the *Crisis* another 40 years of valiant combat. Rather, we pray that long before then, the principles we share will have won final and irrevocable acceptance in America and throughout the world.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, CIO

EMIL RIEVE
General President

GEORGE BALDANZI
Executive Vice President

WILLIAM POLLOCK
General Secretary-Treasurer

CLARENCE MITCHELL, *director NAACP Washington bureau, is shown testifying before the Senate armed services committee expressing NAACP opposition to the confirmation of Millard F. Caldwell, Jr., as federal civil defense director. Spectators included Dr. William H. Jernagin and Rev. Stephen Spottswood, president of the Washington, D.C., branch. See page* 183. BOTTOM—*Current officers of the Kansas City, Mo., NAACP branch.*

DID YOU KNOW –

That Memnon was one of the legendary Negro heroes of the ancient world?

Memnon, who helped the Trojans against the Greeks after Hector's death, is called "black Memnon" by Ovid and "Ethiopian Memnon" by Catullus.

■ The early *Crisis* created an intellectual revolution in the most out-of-the-way places

Forty Years of "The Crisis"

By George S. Schuyler

THE CRISIS was born near the end of the most parlous period in post-Civil War history. The bright promise of Reconstruction which for ten years had inspired high hopes in the hearts of millions, began to tarnish after the Hayes-Tilden compromise of 1876, when the freedmen were returned to the tender mercies of the unreconstructed South. By 1890 the Ku Klux elements were firmly in the saddle almost everywhere below the Smith and Wesson Line, and the ensuing succession of anti-Negro legislation indicated the political decline of *Homo Africanus*. Jim Crowism, lynching, disfranchisement, peonage and mobbism became epidemic in Dixie, and in the remainder of the Republic the Negro was only half a man. Colored Americans were losing hope, depressed by increasingly fell circumstances and the campaign of ridicule and calumny which presented them as having no past, a degrading present, and an ominous future.

Then came *The Crisis,* like a clear, strong breeze cutting through the miasma of Negrophobism. Here for the first time with brilliance, militancy, facts, photographs and persuaviveness, a well-edited magazine challenged the whole concept of white supremacy then nationally accepted. There had been and were Negro newspapers but nothing on so high a journalistic level had so far appeared. It was a revelation to America and particularly colored America. It is no exaggeration to say that the early *Crisis* created an intellectual revolution in the most out-of-the-way places. Its impact was similar to that created fifteen years later by *The American Mercury*. It became the bible of the militant Negro of the day and "must" reading for the growing number of his white champions. What it lacked in typography it made up in content. It was the rallying point for the new interracial deal.

In its pages was the first encour-

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, *now associate editor of* The Pittsburgh Courier, *was for two years (1942-1944) business manager of* The Crisis.

agement of Negro writers and artists. Here were the first literary contests, the first section devoted to Negro children, the first presentation of Negro art work, the first feature stories about successful Negroes, the first full-fledged drive for Pan-Africanism, the first special numbers devoted to Negro educational advancement, the first articles on consumers cooperation. Here were scathing denunciations and flaming defense. It was a magazine that passed through ten times more hands than bought it, and it is not surprising that after World War I it boasted a circulation of over 100,000 copies, one of the largest in the land.

Through the years it has hewed to the line with commendable consistency. More sophisticated but no less militant than when it was launched in 1910, it continues to the present to attack the same dragons it ventured forth to destroy. They are weaker dragons and not so numerous because the work started by *The Crisis* has borne fruit, and where forty years ago it fought alone, it now shares the vanguard with many. Indeed, there are thousands of newspapers and periodicals now fighting for the goals *The Crisis* announced in 1910.

It has been an inspiration of Negro rights, and perusal of its files is like marching back through the battlefields of yesteryear. Too often we forget that what is now taken for granted was burning issue not so long ago. Its pages are peopled with men and women now gone and generally forgotten who were devoted workers, flaming fighters, dedicated champions of a new interracial order. Today as in the past it welds together the same kind of people for the same cause with the same singleness of purpose. Rich in years but young in spirit, it stands as a unique example of what a militant magazine should be.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW —

That the third son of Catherine de Medici, François duc d'Alençon (1554-1584), is described by his contemporaries as a black man?

Paul Rival, for instance, in his *Giddy Life of Queen Margot* (1930) gives this description: "He was a horrible little man, woolly-haired and black, an enervated Moor who reminded one of the old story about the Negro blood in the Medici family."

★ ★ ★

That the late Henry Ford was the first big automotive manufacturer to place Negroes in all departments and occupations in his plant?

Although Mr. Ford began this policy at his River Rouge plant in 1921, he did not extend it to his assembly plants in the South.

★ ★ ★

That the Roman poet Juvenal criticizes "the fair European for sneering at the Ethiopian?

Some of these items have a familiar ring, while others will seem strange today

Crisis News Items—Forty Years Ago

White Sawyer, a Missouri Negro, has lost the suit in which he attempted to compel the school trustees to transport his children. There is only one colored school in his township and that is six miles from his home.

* * *

Mr. Booker T. Washington while in Europe received much social attention. In an interview in the *Morning Post* he said that the race problem in the South is becoming more and more reassuring. On landing in America Mr. Washington announced that the Negroes in the United States were better off than the poor classes in Europe.

* * *

Denver is planning a theatre for colored people. One is in operation in Washington, D. C. There are scores of moving-picture shows opened recently for colored patronage in the border states.

* * *

New York is becoming an art center for colored people, especially in music and acting. It is the headquarters of Bert Williams, Cole & Johnson and Will Marion Cook. One of the latest and most interesting developments is the Clef Club Orchestra of one hundred and thirty musicians, under James Reese Europe.

* * *

Fifty white Atlanta real estate men have entered into an agreement not to rent or sell property to Negroes within the limits prescribed by the Fourth Ward Progressive Club. There has been a meeting between the Mayor and several representative colored citizens on the subject.

* * *

Five hundred white citizens have successfully protested against the establishment of the Negro park in Memphis, Tenn. Colored people taxed for public parks in that city are not allowed to use them.

* * *

President Taft has appointed Charles A. Cottrell, colored, to be Collector of the Port at Honolulu, but is embarrassed in his intention to appoint W. H. Lewis Assistant Attorney-General Wickersham appears to be opposed to this step.

* * *

Negro minstrels traveling in private cars are entitled to the same treatment as white occupants of such cars, according to a decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in the case of Pat Chappelle against the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

* * *

Mr. George Wallace, a former colored member of the Georgia Reconstruction Legislature, is dead.

* * *

H. W. Bass, of Philadelphia, who is a Negro, the first to sit in the Pennsylvania Legislature, offered a bill aimed to further operate against discrimination in public places.

* * *

New Orleans wants additional "Jim Crow" legislation for carnival occasions and for segregation.

* * *

Negro women and white women will no longer occupy the same rooms at a Kentucky workhouse. The Mayor said recently that the work of putting in partitions at the institution had been started and will be completed within ten days. These partitions will separate the whites and blacks.

* * *

Mr. Booker T. Washington, principal of Tuskegee Institute, while calling at an apartment house in West 63rd Street, New York, was set up by one of the tenants and several bystanders. Mr. Washington ran, but was severely beaten before the police interfered.

* * *

The presence of a little girl with one-thirtieth of Negro blood in a Maryland school has disrupted it and the case is under serious consideration.

* * *

Henry O. Tanner has two paintings in the special exhibit department of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. One is "The Three Marys" and the other "The Return of the Holy Woman."

* * *

An enterprising student has discovered the names of thirty-three colored men in the 1911 edition of "Who's Who in America."

* * *

Haiti

WONDERLAND OF THE CARIBBEAN!

Fabulous Haiti—world's most amazing vacation land. Only 10 hours by plane from New York—4 hours from Miami. Live like a king in modern, de luxe hotels atop "air conditioned" mountains—4,000 feet high.

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THROUGH THE YEARS

with

The Crisis

On the following pages are facsimile reproductions of old *Crisis* departments and cartoons.

Page 168—Cover from Volume one, Number one of *The Crisis,* November, 1910.

Page 169—Cartoon from March, 1920, issue. Albert Smith uses his etching needle to dramatize the southern Negro's flight northward.

Pages 170-171—Cartoon from February, 1911, issue. Satiric comment on America's attitude toward the thrifty Negro.

Pages 172-173—Cartoon from the March, 1911, issue. Ironic comment on social equality.

Page 174—"Men of the Month" was a *Crisis* department from 1912 until 1921.

Page 175—"Along the Color Line" was a popular news department for many years.

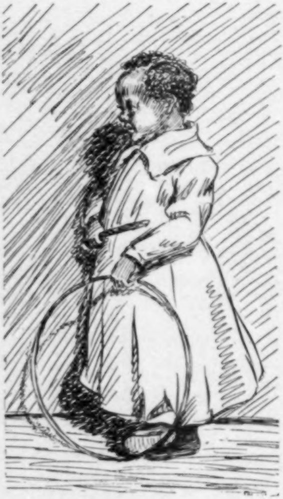
Page 176—Facsimile reproduction of a portion of Dr. Du Bois' scoop (See page 149) of secret documents in which the Americans advised the French in World War I how to treat Negro soldiers. The U. S. Post Office held up the May, 1919, *Crisis* for a while because of these documents.

THE CRISIS

A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

Volume One . NOVEMBER, 1910 Number One

Edited by W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, with the co-operation of Oswald Garrison Villard, J. Max Barber, Charles Edward Russell, Kelly Miller, W. S. Braithwaite and M. D. Maclean.



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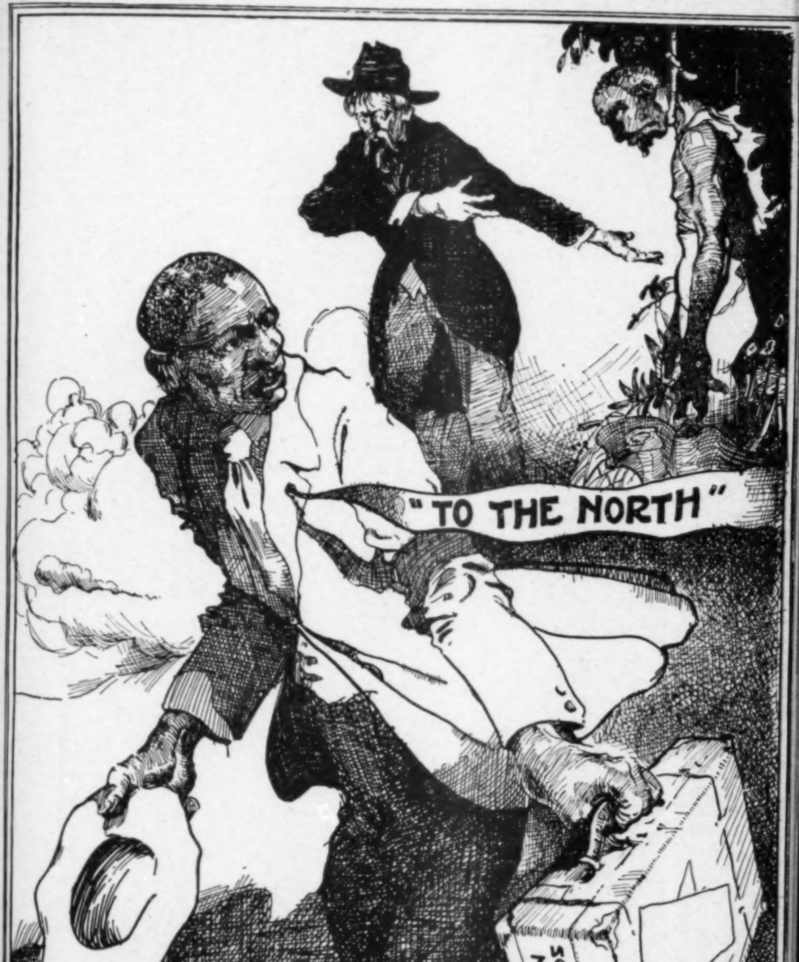
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

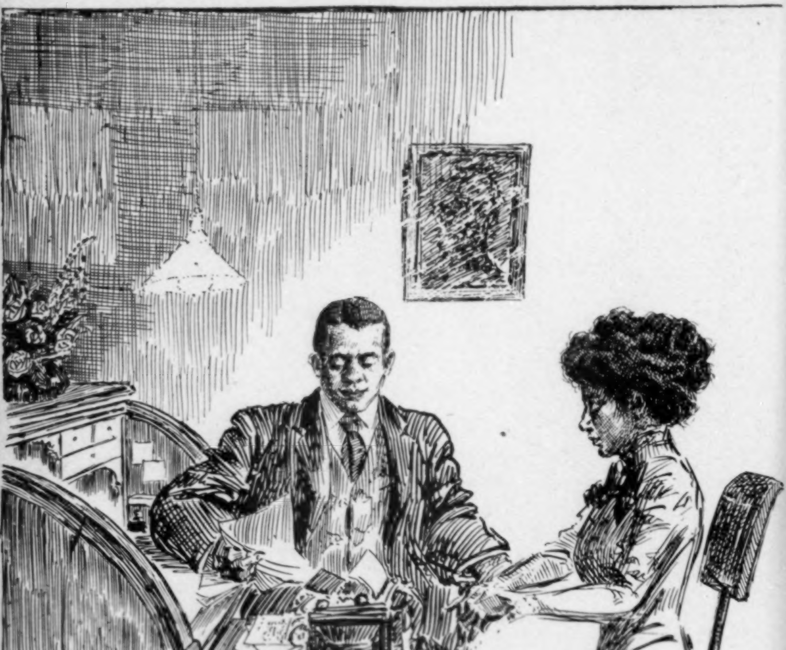
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

AT TWENTY VESEY STREET NEW YORK CITY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR TEN CENTS A COPY

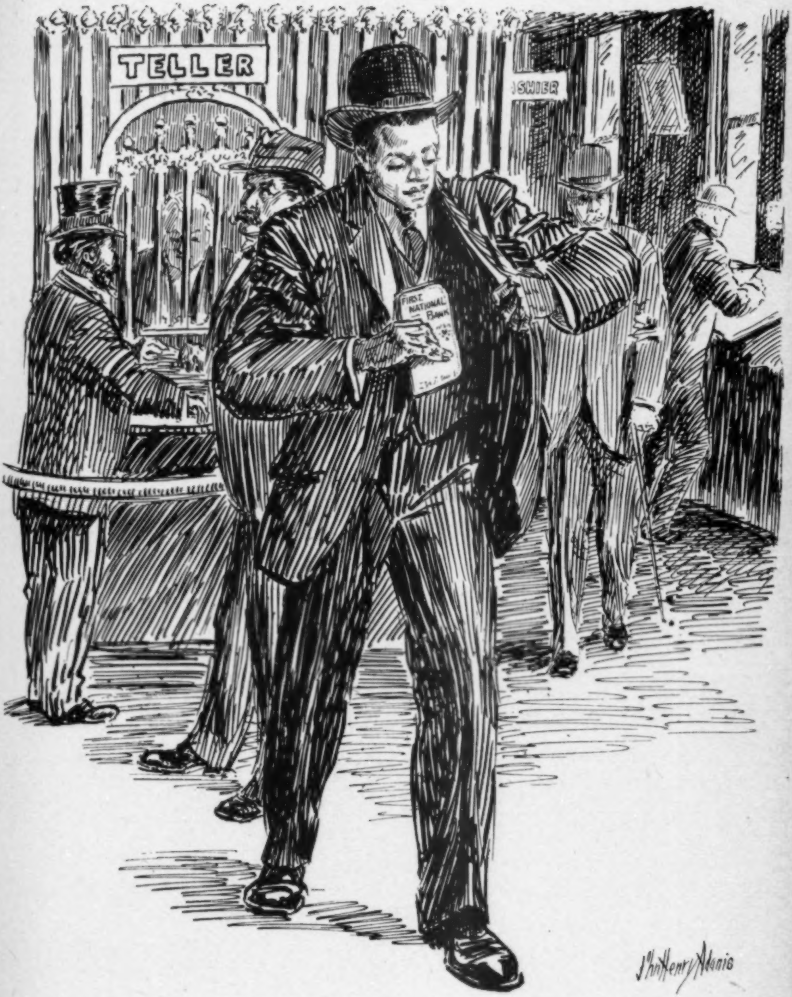

"TO THE NORTH"
SOUTHERN NEGRO
ALBERT·A·SMITH·

THE REASON


John Henry Adams-10

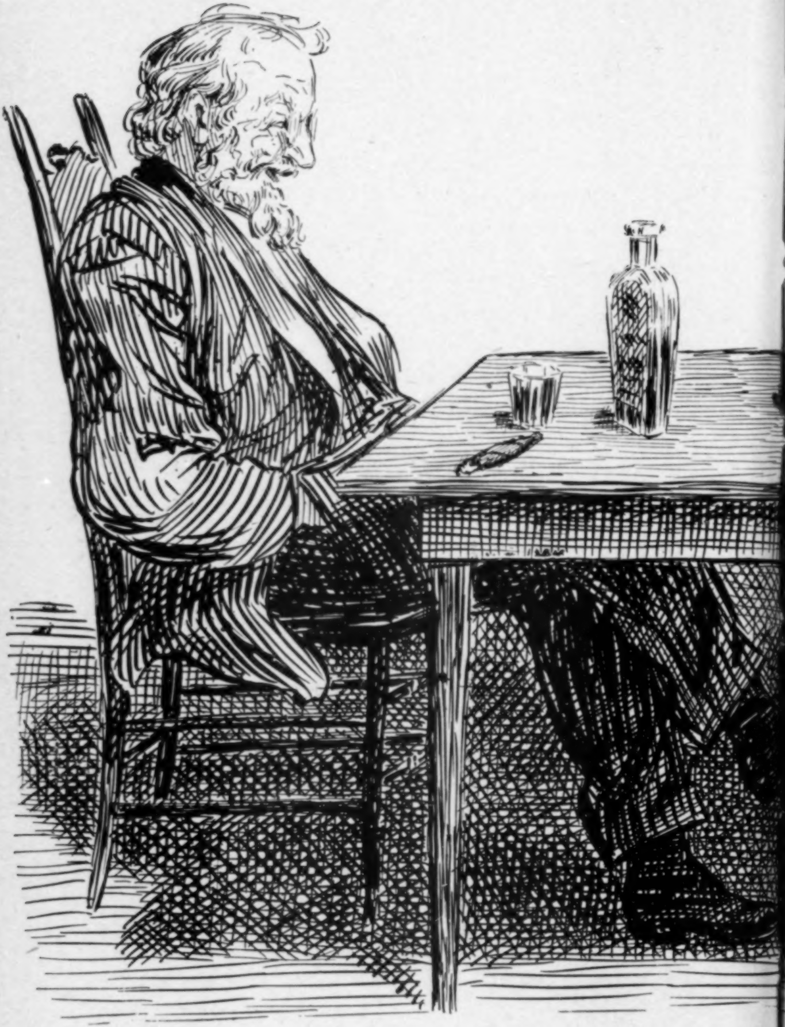
1900

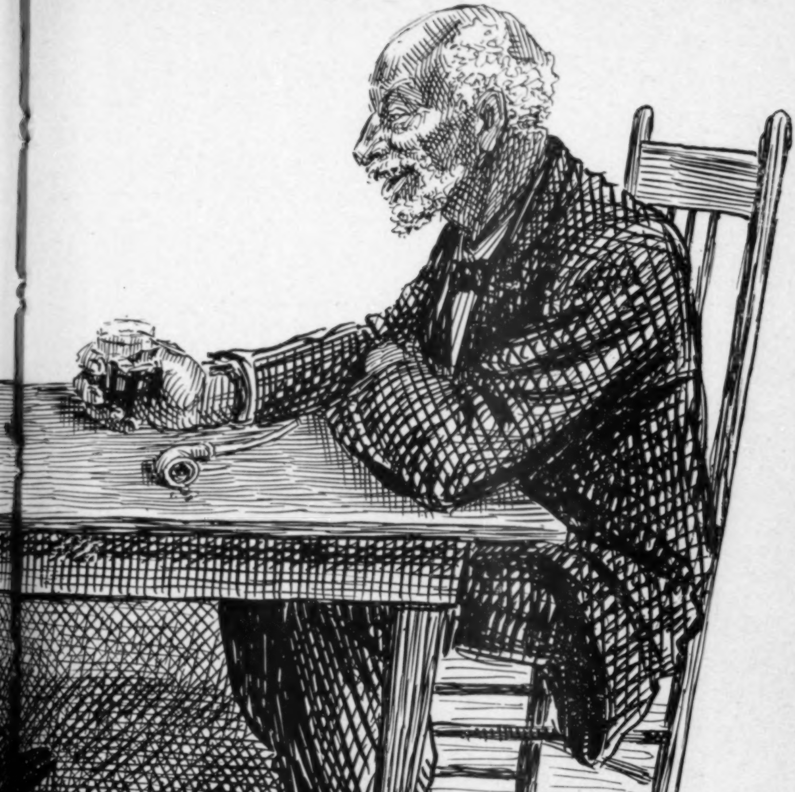
"The colored man that saves his money and buys a brick house will be universally respected by his white neighbors."


TELLER
SHIER
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
John Henry Adams

1910

"New and dangerous species of Negro criminal lately discovered in Baltimore. He will be segregated in order to avoid lynching."




John Henry Adams

"SOCIAL EQUALITY"

Drawn by John Henry Adams

L.R.LATTIMER-'11

MEN OF THE MONTH

CHARLES L. MITCHELL.

THE colored race lost a famous fighter in the month of May, when Charles L. Mitchell died at his home in Roxbury, Mass. Born in Hartford, Conn., in 1829, of a well-known colored family, he went to work as a printer in Boston, in 1853, and found congenial employment on William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator*. He worked with the great abolitionist until the Civil War broke out, but he enlisted with the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Regiment as soon as the colored men were called on.

He had a remarkable record for bravery in the war. He was camp printer for a time; he begged, however, to be sent to the firing line and took part in the battle of Honey Hill, in which one-third of the force engaged was killed. His foot was taken off by a cannon shot, but they told the story of how, when he was being carried bleeding from the field, he sat upright on the stretcher to cheer a regiment that went by to make another charge. The incident was widely commented on at the time and shortly afterward he received a second lieutenancy, one of the few colored men to be thus honored.

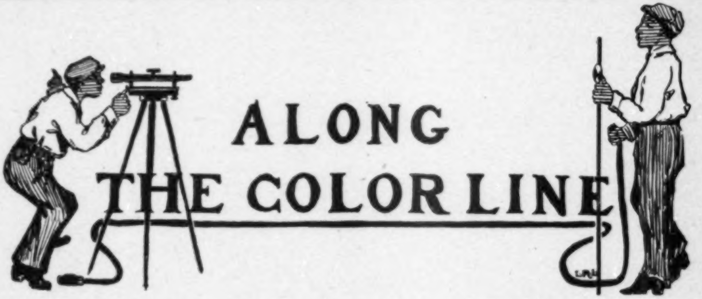
THE LATE CHARLES L. MITCHELL

Returning to Boston with what Wendell Phillips called "that added grace, the halting which is the stateliest step of the soldier," he was elected to the legislature by a handsome majority, and he was also given a post in the customs house, which he held for forty-three years. He took a prominent part in the life of the city and was in close touch with all movements for the betterment of his race. He was one of the pallbearers at the funeral of Mr. Garrison, and served as one of the five members of General N. P. Hallowell's staff when the Robert Gould Shaw monument was unveiled. When the Cuban War broke

CHARLES BURROUGHS

THE CRISIS

Volume Four JUNE, 1912 Number Two



ALONG THE COLOR LINE

POLITICAL.

THERE are in the United States 26,999,151 males of voting age. Nine and one-tenth per cent. of these are of Negro descent.

¶ In a speech before the City Club of Chicago recently, the effect of Negro disfranchisement in the South upon the general political situation was emphasized. Nearly one-third of the members of the national nominating conventions come from the South, and are elected by undemocratic methods. It was said that less than 150,000 voters in Georgia and Alabama can nullify the million and a quarter voters in a State like Illinois.

¶ Northern Negro voters are pressing for elective offices. In St. Louis a colored man is trying to get into the city council and has some chance because of the factions among whites. William R. Page, a colored real estate man of Atlantic City, is in the field for election as delegate to the National Republican Convention.

¶ The Atlanta *Georgian* says: "J. O. Cochran, secretary of the county Democratic executive committee, declares to-day that a meeting of the subcommittee will be called at once to consider throwing out the vote of a Negro which was cast at the second ward voting place in the primary Wednesday. It is not known for whom the Negro voted, but Mr. Cochran says whether he is a Democrat or not had nothing to do with his right to cast a ballot, as a strictly white primary was being held."

¶ About 700 colored women of San Francisco who are registered voters are forming a Taft Republican League. They are "remembering Brownsville."

¶ At a meeting of 250 colored voters of New Jersey it was declared that the conference went on record as opposed to the endorsement of any candidate for the Presidency, for United States Senator or Representative in Congress "until they and each of them pledge to the colored voters of the country and the State representatives pledge to the colored voters of this State a plank in the national platform of his or their party against lynching, disfranchisement or any law encroaching or violating the sacred rights of citizenship, supported by a message from the President and executed by an enactment of Congress giving the United States Supreme Court power to enforce all rights guaranteed by the said Federal Constitution."

¶ An anti-Roosevelt meeting has been held by the colored citizens of Boston.

¶ W. C. Matthews, a colored lawyer, has been sworn in as Special Assistant District Attorney of Boston.

¶ The Republican State Committee of Delaware has one colored member-at-large. At the recent convention a resolution to appoint four colored members was laid on the table.

¶ Mrs. James Bennett, of Richmond, Ky., a Southern white woman, said before a committee on woman's suffrage of the

DOCUMENTS OF THE WAR

COLLECTED BY W. E. BURGHARDT DUBOIS

THE following documents have come into the hands of the Editor. He has absolute proof of their authenticity. The first document was sent out last August at the request of the American Army by the French Committee which is the official means of communication between the American forces and the French. It represents American and not French opinion and we have been informed that when the French Ministry heard of the distribution of this document among the Prefects and Sous-Prefects of France, they ordered such copies to be collected and burned.

MISSION MILITAIRE FRANÇAISE

près l'Armée Américaine.

Le 7 août 1918.

CONFIDENTIEL

AU SUJET DES TROUPES NOIRES AMERICAINES

1°. *Il importe que les Officiers Français appelés à exercer un commandement sur les troupes noires américaines, ou à vivre à leur contact, aient une notion exacte de la situation des nègres aux ETATS-UNIS. Les considérations exposées dans la note suivante devraient donc leur être communiquées, et il y a un intèrêt considérable, à ce qu'elles soient connues et largement diffuses. Il appartiendra mêmo aux Autorités Militaires Françaises, de renseigner à ce sujet par l'intermédiaire des Autorités civiles, les populations françaises des cantonnemonts de troupes américaines de couleur.*

2°. *Le point de vue américain sur la "question nègre" peut paraitre discutable à bien des esprits français. Mais il ne nous appartient pas, à nous Français, de discuter ce que certains appellent un "préjudice." L'opinion Américaine est unanime sur la "question noire," et n'admettrait pas la discussion.*

Le nombre élevé de nègres aux ETATS-UNIS (15 *millions environ*) *crééerait pour la race blanche de la République un danger de dégénérescence si une séparation inexorable n'était faite entre noirs et blancs.*

Comme ce danger n'existe pas pour la race française, le public français s'est habitué à traiter familièrement le "noir" et à être très indulgent à son égard.

Cette indulgence et cette familiarité blessent profendément les Américains. Ils les considèrent comme une atteinte à leurs dogmes nationaux. Ils craignent que le contact des Français n'inspirent aux noirs américains des prétentions qu'ils considèrent comme intolérables. Il est indispensable que tous les efforts soient faits pour éviter

FRENCH MILITARY MISSION

Stationed with the American Army

August 7, 1918.

SECRET INFORMATION CONCERNING BLACK AMERICAN TROOPS

1. *It is important for French officers who have been called upon to exercise command over black American troops, or to live in close contact with them, to have an exact idea of the position occupied by Negroes in the United States. The information set forth in the following communication ought to be given to these officers and it is to their interest to have these matters known and widely disseminated. It will devolve likewise on the French Military Authorities, through the medium of the Civil Authorities, to give information on this subject to the French population residing in the cantonments occupied by American colored troops.*

2. *The American attitude upon the Negro question may seem a matter for discussion to many French minds. But we French are not in our province if we undertake to discuss what some call "prejudice." American opinion is unanimous on the "color question" and does not admit of any discussion.*

The increasing number of Negroes in the United States (*about* 15,000,000) *would create for the white race in the Republic a menace of degeneracy were it not that an impassable gulf has been made between them.*

As this danger does not exist for the French race, the French public has become accustomed to treating the Negro with familiarity and indulgence.

This indulgence and this familiarity are matters of grievous concern to the Americans. They consider them an affront to their national policy. They are afraid that contact with the French will inspire in black Americans aspirations which to them

Acm

MRS. SUSIE COOPER *of New York City accepts the posthumous award of the Bronze Star Medal to Cpl. Wade E. Rutledge, her son, who was killed in action while fighting with the U. S. 25th Division in Korea. Presentation was made by Maj.-Gen. R. B. Woodruff, deputy commander of the First Army, at Governors Island on January* 11.

DID YOU KNOW —

That by the end of the period of Spanish rule in Mexico offsprings of Negroes and Indians were being classified as "American Spaniards"?

One notable example is that of Don José Maria Morelos y Pavon (1765-1815), the great hero of Mexican independence. Although Morelos' birth certificate read "Spanish," he was actually a dark mulatto.

Popsie

HIS HONOR AIDS THE NAACP—*Mayor Vincent Impellitteri (left) of New York City chats with NAACP secretary Walter White (right) and Mrs. White, and Walter F. Shirley during intermission at the benefit concert given by Duke Ellington and his orchestra on January 21 at the Metropolitan Opera House for the NAACP.*

THE "DUKE" *at the stage door. Duke Ellington is shown at the stage door of the opera house before his concert.*

Editorials

OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

WITH this issue *The Crisis* takes a brief glance at its past. Born during the perilous post-Reconstruction period when racial tensions were high and the Negro with few channels through which to voice his grievances, *The Crisis* has lived to see real progress in race relations. Once lukewarm friends are now staunch advocates and many of the causes which were then dreams are now realities. The fight has not yet been won, though victory is on the horizon. We pray, along with one of our well-wishers, that long before another forty years the principles for which *The Crisis* and the NAACP are fighting "will have won final and irrevocable acceptance in America and throughout the world."

•

MR. MARSHALL REPORTS

NAACP special counsel Thurgood Marshall reports that Army jim-crow is really at the bottom of the wholesale courts-martial of Negro troops in Korea. His findings after a five-weeks investigation in Japan and Korea buttress what the NAACP has argued all along: That Army segregation creates low morale among Negro servicemen, blunts their efficiency, and exposes them to unnecessary discriminations and unfair treatment.

Mr. Marshall found that of the 34 servicemen convicted for alleged violations of the 75th Article of War, 32 were Negroes—only 2 white. And the extreme sentences showed the same singular disproportions in that they were all meted out to Negroes.

Army jim-crow is directly responsible for this summary justice for two reasons. First, some of the white officers originally assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment, from which so many of the early courts-martial cases came, did not want to command Negro troops. So you can easily imagine the morale of a regiment despised by its own officers. A second factor was the eagerness with which officers would single out Negro troops for the "dirty work." And when these men failed to do what was expected of them, they were blamed as Negroes and not as soldiers derelict in their duty.

"There is no evidence," Mr. Marshall emphasizes, "of courts-martial of any unusual number in any mixed unit of any branch of the services, and there never has been. Segregation is the cause of the low morale and the singling out of Negro troops for this kind of unfair treatment, and we will continue to have this problem as long as segregation is maintained."

Mrs. Marshall also found that the court-martial machinery was bad. It was bad for all troops, but worse for Negro GIs when it came to administration. In almost every instance Mr. Marshall found that defense counsel for Negro servicemen did not have adequate time to prepare their cases and that the men were usually rushed from their foxholes to trial with no real choice of counsel. Sometimes as many as four cases were tried in one day.

Although direct responsibility for this condiiton lies in the 25th Division, which conducted the trials, the ultimate responsibility is General Douglas MacArthur's because of his failure to eliminate segregation in his command. There is no end in sight to the damage that Army segregation can do to Negro (and even white) troop morale and the reputation of America in the eyes of the world. The solution? Abolish it now!

LIBERIAN POLITICS

WE wish presidential candidate D. Twe well in the coming Liberian elections. Mr. Twe, who is running on the Reformation party ticket, is the first member of the indigenous population to run for the Liberian presidency. His running mate for the vice-presidential seat is Tyson Wood of Grand Bassa county. Both candidates have a good chance of winning if the election is conducted fairly.

There is a touch of irony in the fact that Liberians have never enjoyed political democracy. One of the two nominally independent states in Africa, Liberia has been ruled by a small oligarchic group of Americo-Liberians and the True Whig party. Enjoying the advantages of a suffrage restricted by property qualifications and an archaic election machinery, the True Whigs have managed to stay in power ever since 1871. Constitutional changes in 1945-46, and overhauling of the election machinery, now make it possible for Liberian indigenes to participate in their government.

Under the old setup Liberians voted for president in May, but the ballots were not counted until the next meeting of the legislature in November or December. Usual procedure was to declare a president elected and then burn the ballots, which made it impossible for the opposition to know how many votes their candidates had actually received. And since the True-Whig-party-controlled House of Representatives was the sole judge of elections the House reports were final. But under the new law the ballots cannot be burned after a count until the question of who was elected has been settled satisfactorily for all parties concerned.

This new procedure is an outgrowth of the growing cooperation between Americo-Liberians and the indigenous population. It puts Liberia in tune with the times and presages real democratic advance in that country.

Good News

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City has purchased a painting (an abstraction titled, "Painting") by Charles H. Alston of New York City.

* * *

William R. Hudgins has been elected president of the million-dollar Carver Federal Savings and Loan Association of New York City. He succeeds the late Walter A. Miller, founder and first president of the institution, who died last May. Carver was the fourth home-lending agency operated by Negroes to become federally chartered.

* * *

Private Edward Cleaborn of Memphis, Tenn., the 18-year-old soldier who died a hero in Korea, received the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously in a special ceremony held in his honor. The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest decoration for gallantry and Pvt. Cleaborn won it for holding a ridge against the enemy until his company could withdraw to safety. A housing development in Memphis and a park are to be named after hero Cleaborn.

* * *

Mary Robbs, 25-year-old soprano, was selected in January to appear as a soloist with the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra in a "Pops" concert to be held this month. This is one of the rare instances in the South where a Negro has been chosen to appear with a white-member orchestra.

* * *

Ruth Ellen Yancey, R.N., of Somerset, Pa., has been named head nurse in charge of education at the University of Illinois Research and Education Hospital in Chicago.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW —

That the Negro Barcala "is one of the most distinguished figures of the Argentine revolution"?

According to Domingo Faustino Sarmiento *(Life of General Fray Félix Aldao),* Barcala was a genius at organization and played a prominent role in the civic, political, and military life of Argentina.

■ This federal civil defense administrator doesn't like Negroes

Meet Mr. Caldwell

WE want to introduce our readers to the newly appointed federal civil defense administrator, Mr. Millard F. Caldwell, Jr., of Florida. Mr. Caldwell is an American patriot who believes that one-ninth of his fellow citizens are inferior to the other nine-tenths. He has shown opposition to decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court giving Negroes access to the Democratic primary in the South, he showed laxity in prosecuting the perpetrators of an especially brutal lynching in his state while governor, and he is the father of the southern regional educational plan designed to circumvent Supreme Court decisions which admit Negroes to graduate and professional schools in the South.

Crisis readers should remember that Mr. Caldwell is the man who on January 16 won the unanimous approval of a Senate committee to be confirmed as Federal Civil Defense Administrator — despite his anti-Negro record as governor of Florida and the equivocal testimony he gave at the committee hearing.

Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP Washington bureau, appeared in opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Caldwell on January 15 and we give herewith part of his testimony as recorded in "Hearing Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services United States Senate":

> One thing that came out of that meeting [of the NAACP in January] which I have included in my statement is that the general feeling among those present was that this appointment was an insult to colored people, because it was an action on the part of the President [Mr. Harry S. Truman] and the Democratic Party which gave aid and comfort to what is popularly called the Dixiecrat wing of the Democratic Party. . . .
>
> Now, we are opposed to Governor Caldwell's appointment because he stands head and shoulders above those who are leading a tremendous fight against human rights in the United States. He is not simply one of the privates in that group; I would say that he is one of the top officers, and the information which we submit to the committee, I believe, will bear that out.
>
> For example, Governor Caldwell is opposed to the right of voting on the part of colored people. There are other factors that I also list in my testimony, but in between the top point of opposition to voting rights and the low point which I have included in my testimony, of the refusal even to address his constituents with a salutation on official mail, is an indication that this appointment is one which could not

possibly insure the minority groups of this country fair and equitable treatment in a time of national emergency. . . .

Mr. Caldwell is a leader among those who actively fight against full equality for all of our citizens. . . . He was one of the first to denounce the United States Supreme Court decision in the Texas primary cases. . . . As governor of Florida, Mr. Caldwell showed a great weakness in his refusal to remove a sheriff from office, who was the central character in a terrible lynching. . . . As governor of Florida, Mr. Caldwell was the chief architect of a plan to establish regional schools for colored students. The plan was instituted for the purpose of getting around the Supreme Court decision in *Gaines* v. *Canada* 305 U. S. 377), decided in 1938. . . . The record shows that Mr. Caldwell does not have a single standard for judging American citizens. Instead, he would use one kind of treatment for white Americans and another inferior kind for treatment of colored Americans. . . .

In his testimony before the committee, Mr. Caldwell still insisted that he reserved "the right to address any person, whether he be a citizen of my state or any other state, in such manner as I please, and in accordance with my own views." Nor did he retract his expressed views on the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the Texas primary cases. Mr. Millard F. Caldwell, Jr., is the very type of a biased, muddle-headed man who has got hold by politics of a high public office for which he is totally unfit.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW —

That thousands of Negroes fought in the Argentine war of independence?

José Antonio Wilde *(Buenos Aires Seventy Years Ago)* says "they rendered extremely valuable service. Brave, patient, obedient, they proved themselves first-class soldiers."

★ ★ ★

That almost all teachers of the piano in early 19th century Buenos Aires were either Negro or mulattoes?

Remigio Nevarro and Roque Rivero were among the most famous of these teachers.

★ ★ ★

That many Negroes in Uruguay and Argentina often lived beyond the century mark?

El Siglo (Montevideo, August 3, 1880) reports that Mariana Artigas died at the age of 130; *Patria Argentina* (May 29, 1880), Matías Rosas at 121; and other accounts say that a Cayetano Pelliza died at the age of 115 and a María Escalada de Soler, at 105.

CHARTER BRANCH MEMBER—*Mrs. A. H. Gardner (left), a charter member of the Rochester, N. Y., branch since 1919 chats with Mrs. Harper Sibley, past president of the National Council of Church Women and the hostess at the tea held in her home.*

* * *

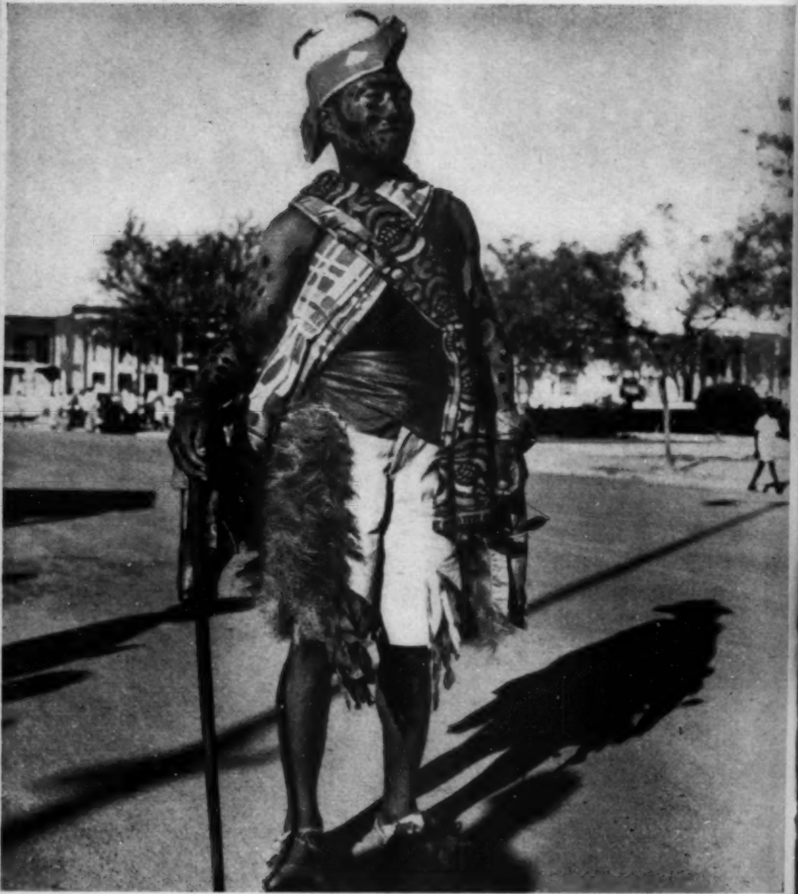
DID YOU KNOW –

That there are four historic examples of a black ethnic group metamorphosing into whites?

Dr. Adolphe Bloch cites the instances of the black Huns, Bulgars, Khazars, and Ugrics. In each case the white ethnic group descended from the black one.

★ ★ ★

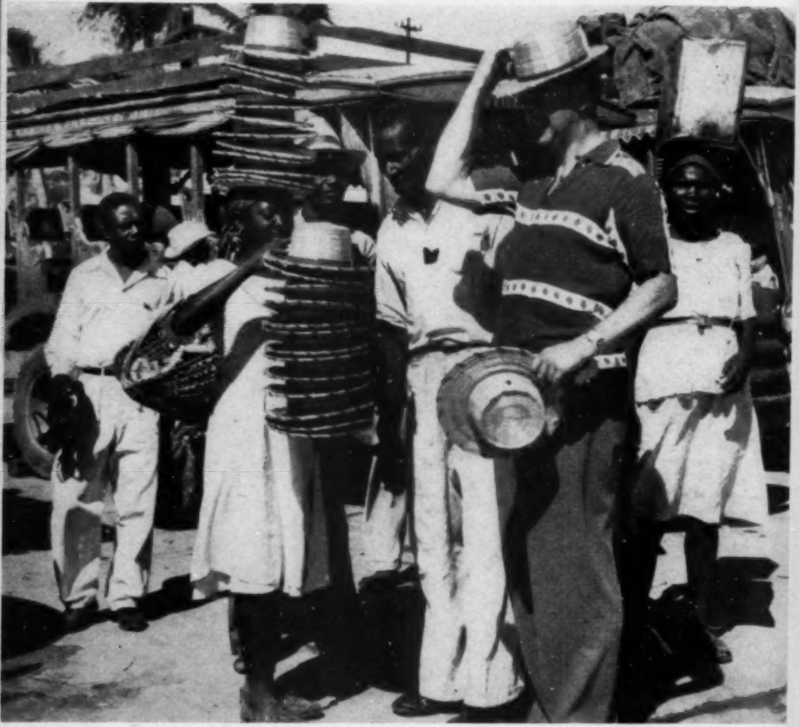
That thirteen Negro delegates sat in the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868?



Acme

MARDI GRAS, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI—*This Haitian is wearing one of the fantastic costumes which makes Haiti's annual Mardi Gras such a colorful spectacle.*

DENISE MORAILLE, *"Queen of Tourism" at Haiti's annual Mardi Gras.*



Acme

ROVING SALESGIRL—*You don't have to go to a hat store in Port-au-Prince, Haiti—the store comes to you. Progressive-minded merchants stimulate sales by hiring salesgirls like this miss who finds a tourist a likely customer. Hats sells for about fifty cents—almost soaking wet. The wet straw is pliable and can be quickly dried on the head for a perfect fit.*

* * *

Meeting Threatened

The First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia, sends this report on the attempts of local racists to intimidate a church meeting at which Lillian Smith was the main speaker.

The main speaker for the women's day program at the First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Ga., was Miss Lillian Smith, author of *Strange Fruit* and *Killers of the Dream*. On the day preceding Miss Smith's appearance, Dr. Ralph Gilbert, pastor of the church, received an anonymous telephone call questioning him in rather ominous tones as to whether the meeting would be on a non-segregated basis. Dr. Gilbert's reply was that there would be no segregation, that it would certainly be unhospitable to invite people of another race to attend these services and then to tell them where they had to sit. Moreover, it would be an insult to Miss Smith, who has always taken a bold stand against segregation, to ask her to address a segregated audience.

The anonymous caller then threatened: "In that case, I strongly advise that you do not have the meeting." He hung up at once.

Dr. Gilbert then got in touch with Mayor Olin Fulmer and the commissioner of police, explaining to them the threats he had received. They told him to go ahead, that he would receive full protection.

Threatening calls were also made to Mrs. Frank Spencer, wife of the commander of the port of Savannah, advising her not to introduce Miss Smith.

Anonymous threats were likewise telephoned to Rabbi Barnett of the Agudath Achim Synagogue because his choir had promised to sing at the services. A rumor had it that hecklers were going to be distributed throughout the audience to create a disturbance when Miss Smith began speaking.

For an hour before the morning service there was a car parked across the street from the church. Its occupant was a lone, suspicious-looking white man. He stayed around until about 12:30 P. M., as if on inspection duty. At 3:30 P. M. a carload of white "huskies" drove up and parked in front of the church. But when they spotted Sheriff William Harris and his deputies they hurriedly drove off.

It is believed that the anonymous phone calls came from members of a small local group of Ku Klux Klansmen. Despite their threats, 150 whites attended the meeting, Mrs. Spencer introduced Miss Smith, and the skies did not fall. This meeting shows that progressive Negroes and whites in the South are not going to be intimidated by KKK threats, that they are actively fighting for better race relations.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

LEGAL

GIs Exonerated: Four Negro GIs who had been sentenced to ten years imprisonment by courts-martial in Korea have been exonerated.

The four 24th Infantrymen—Corporal Verlon S. White and Privates Willie Martin, Jr., Hardy E. Sanders and Bernell Gordon—had been charged with violation of Article of War 75 and convicted of "misconduct before the enemy." They asked the assistance of the NAACP in presenting their appeal to the Judge Advocate General.

Jack Greenberg of the NAACP legal staff represented them in hearings before the Judicial Council of the Judge Advocate General's Office. The Council, with the concurrence of the Acting Judge Advocate General, rejected the charge of cowardice, found the men guilty of being AWOL, reduced their sentences to one year and "suspended the execution of the entire sentence in each case."

This decision, Mr. Greenberg explains, "means that the men were found guilty of a minor offense for which sentence was suspended and their dishonorable discharges revoked." The exonerated GIs are among 39 officers and enlisted men who have appealed to the NAACP for assistance following court-martial convictions, and whose case were investigated by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, in Japan and in Korea.

Marshall Returns: Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, who has been in Japan and Korea for nearly a month investigating the circumstances surrounding the courts-martial of more than 30 Negro officers and enlisted men of the 24th Infantry returned to San Francisco on February 22. While in Japan and Korea, Mr. Marshall interviewed the accused men and others in their outfit and was in conference with General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Inspector General Edwin A. Zundel, and Major General Doyle O. Hickey, chief of staff.

Trenton Six: The second trial of the Trenton Six was suddenly halted in February when prosecutor Mario H. Volpe was stricken with acute appendicitis and rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation. Superior Court Judge Ralph J. Smalley declared a mistrial and set the new trial for March 5.

Two of the six young men, all charged with the murder three years ago of William Horner, a secondhand store proprietor, are being represented by a battery of lawyers retained by the Association and headed by Raymond

Pace Alexander of Philadelphia. Assisting Mr. Alexander are Clifford R. Moore of Trenton and J. Mercer Burrell of Newark.

The trial, which opened on February 5, came to an abrupt end the next day, with only one juror having been selected. The jury for the retrial next month will have to be selected from an entirely new panel.

As the trial opened, attorneys for the defense demanded the right to see a report submitted to the Commissioner of Public Safety by two police officers in 1948 who reportedly asserted a belief in the innocence of four of the accused and expressed doubt as to the guilt of the other two. The prosecution sought to keep this and other relevant police records from the defense. Judge Smalley, however, directed the defense to file a formal request for the documents.

With the assistance of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the New Jersey state conference of NAACP branches, of which Dr. U. S. Wiggins is president and the Rev. Charles H. S. Watkins, treasurer, is conducting the defense of John McKenzie and Horace Wilson. The remaining four men—Collis English, Ralph Cooper, McKinley Forrest and James Thorpe—are being defended by other lawyers.

After a 44-day trial, the six were convicted and sentenced to death on August 6, 1948. Their case was appealed to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, which reversed the lower court on three technical counts and ordered a new trial in a decision handed down in July, 1949.

School Case Dismissed: A suit seeking equalization of school facilities for Negro and white pupils in La Grange, Texas, has been dismissed by the U. S. circuit court of appeals on the ground that the plaintiff, in being graduated from high school, had renounced her right to maintain the complaint.

The case involved a suit filed by the NAACP on behalf of Vivian Brown, who completed her high school education in Fort Worth while the La Grange case was pending. The federal district court in Houston had ruled against Miss Brown.

Declining to rule on the question of whether or not the facilities offered Negro pupils in La Grange were equal to those enjoyed by whites, the court opinion states: "It is our view that the judgment should be reversed and the cause remanded with directions to dismiss the complaint for want of equity in the plaintiff to maintain it."

Attorneys handling the case for the NAACP were W. J. Durham of Dallas and U. Simpson Tate, regional special counsel.

MISCELLANEOUS

Court Bans Texas Bias: The circuit court of appeals has decreed that Negro citizens of Harrison county must be allowed full participation in all the voting machinery of the county, thus victoriously terminating a battle for the franchise waged in Texas by the Association for more than a quarter of a century.

Reversing a lower court decision, the appeals court ordered that Harrison county Negroes must be given full rights of membership in the Citizens Party or any other political group. The opinion stated that the primary election of the Citizens Party "has effectively controlled the election of candidates" for county offices for over fifty years and asserted that the exclusion of Negroes from the party must be characterized as the type of discrimination forbidden by the Constitution of the United States."

Finletter Lauded: Secretary of the Air Force Thomas K. Finletter was congratulated by Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, for his prompt action in clearing Captain Charles A. Hill, Jr., of Detroit, of "disloyalty" charges.

"This action," Mr. White wrote Secretary Finletter, "is appreciated by all who believe in justice and it serves to demonstrate to the world that there are leaders in our federal administration with the courage and intelligence to defend our American civil liberties."

Mr. White had previously wired Mr. Finletter, expressing shock at the demand for Captain Hill's resignation "on the irrelevant basis of the alleged activities of his father," and charging that the action against the officer seemed "to be another phase of what appears to be a concerted effort to discredit Negro servicemen." In reply, Mr. Finletter wired Mr. White that he had investigated the charges, exonerated Capt. Hill and publicly expressed regret that the charges had been initiated.

Bunche Dinner: America must put her "interracial house in order" if she is to be the leader of world forces for freedom, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Director of the UN Trusteeship Division, told an audience of 1,400 on January 24 at a testimonial dinner in his honor.

The dinner, held at the Hotel Commodore under the auspices of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., of the NAACP, brought persons from all parts of the country together to pay tribute to Dr. Bunche on his return from Oslo.

Sponsored by a committee of outstanding Americans of both races, the testimonial was under the chairmanship of Judge Robert P. Patterson, former secretary of war, and the vice-chairmanship of Hon. William H. Hastie, judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and Ralph E. Samuel, president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

Nominations Sought Spingarn Medal: Nominations for the Spingarn Medal, awarded annually to a Negro American for distinguished achievement, are now being received at the national office of the NAACP in New York City.

Nominations should be sent immediately to the Spingarn Medal Award Committee, care of the NAACP, 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y. Each nomination should be accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the nominee.

The medal will be presented to the candidate selected by the committee at the annual NAACP convention in Atlanta, Ga., next June.

E. F. Joseph

MEMBERS OF THE BAY-AREA NAACP-GI ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE—*This committee raised more than $5,000 and presented it to Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, upon his return from Tokyo, Japan, following his investigation of charges of widespread courts-martial of Negro servicemen. First row, left to right: Mrs. Maye Mitchell, Kathryn Huggins, Mrs. Gwendolyn Green, and Mrs. Lillian Potts. Second row: Eugene Walker, Weilan Potts, Mrs. Anna Mayfield, Mrs. Alberta Guess, and Terry Francois. Third row: F. M. Taylor, Reginald Keith, Charles Williams, Franklin Williams, NAACP regional director; James Scott, Jack Spann, and Dr. W. L. Anderson.*

What the Branches Are Doing

California: The Bay-Area NAACP GI Assistance Committee has recently been organized to assist in the raising of $5,000 to present to NAACP counsel Thurgood Marshall upon his return from Tokyo as witness of the interest of Bay area citizens in the work of the Association and, secondly, to stimulate interest in the work of the NAACP among people in the Bay area.

Members of the committee include Weilan Potts, chairman, Mrs. Lillian Potts, Mrs. Berry Mayfield, Mrs. Adela Thompson, Mrs. Shirley Williams, Mrs. Myrlin White, Mrs. Charlotte Poole, Mrs. Ethel Nance, Mrs. Terressa Griffin, Mrs. Gwendolyn Greene, S. C. Cooper, Eugene Walker, Reginald Keith, James Scott, Jack Spann, W. L. Anderson, Mrs. Anna Mayfield, Faye Mitchell, Lt. Lloyce Carson, Charles Williams, Jr., Atty. Terry Francois, Kathryn Huggins, Alberta Guess, F. M. Taylor, Rev. Roy Nichols, Mrs. Blanche Wilson, Mrs. Eleanor Poston, Joseph Kennedy, Mrs. Majorie Pogue, Mrs. Arline Beckford, Mrs. Kate Blake, Rev. G. J. Williams, Mrs. L. L. Fowler, Rev. F. G. Luckey, Muriel Collier, Mrs. Dean Smith, and Pat Taylor.

Colorado: W. F. Turner, president of the Denver branch, reports that his branch is currently handling a case against a policeman involved in the killing of a 15-year-old colored boy.

Florida: The Florida state conference of branches has registered a strong protest against the appointment of ex-governor Millard Caldwell as administrator of civilian defense. The protest was made in a recent letter to President Truman by Harry Moore, executive secretary of the state conference.

The letter refers to Mr. Caldwell's record as governor of Florida, and cites several cases in support of the belief that the ex-governor is not free of race prejudice. Among the cases cited were the lynching of Jesse Payne in Madison county in 1945 and the "disappearance" of Leroy Bradwell of Gadsgen county in 1946. The letter also recalled Gov. Caldwell's statement that he felt the U. S. Supreme Court "had gone far afield" in handing down its 1944 decision opening democratic primaries to Negro voters in the South.

Indiana: The Indiana state conference of NAACP branches has chosen April 29 as NAACP day throughout the state.

Massachusetts: George C. Gordon of Springfield, president of the New England regional conference NAACP branches, was recently appointed to the advisory council of the Commission Against Discrimination by Mildred H. Mahoney, chairman. The CAD, which was formerly known as the FEPC, has broadened its field of endeavor in outlawing discrimination not only in employment, but in restaurants, theatres, and in housing projects as well. By contacting the office of the Commission

DES MOINES, IOWA—*Officers and members of the executive board of the Des Moines branch.*

at 41 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., colored persons who are skilled in various fields, may obtain information on many jobs which are available.

The other appointment received by Mr. Gordon, was to the Associated Services for the Armed Forces, an organization composed of three religious groups; namely, National Catholic Welfare Conference, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the YMCA. This organization is responsible for the provision of services to the men in uniform, and is successor to the USO.

Because of his relentless participation in matters of Civic affairs and the NAACP, Mr. Gordon was recommended by many as the most qualified person to serve in these capacities.

The following activities have been reported in the New England area: The Hartford, Conn., branch sponsored an international tea in February with astonishing results in selling the idea of human relationships. In Springfield, a second membership campaign laid emphasis upon renewal of membership. In Providence the branch conducted a forum program. In Worcester, Mass., there was a successful campaign urging merchants to hire colored girls.

Minnesota: In January the Minneapolis branch opened a campaign against jim crow in the city.

New Mexico: In this state Hobart L. LaGrone has been instrumental in organizing a Council of Human Relations. Through the council and the branch a measure has been introduced in the legislature to wipe out the nine segregated schools in the state. Other branch activities include the following:

An extensive civil rights bill. An anti-segregation measure. Amendment of the laws which set procedure for the dental and medical boards. An appropriation for the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Chances of civil rights legislation is rated fairly slim by political observers. The Senate will probably approve such measures, but stiff opposition can be expected in the House, with only 24 of 55 members fairly certain to approve such bills as the Council may introduce. A change in the laws affecting dental and medical boards is expected to pass because of the backing the measure would receive from eastern New Mexico legislators. Rep. Virgil McCullom, (D.,-Eddy), has stated that he will seek to have a reciprocity provision written into the dental licensing law.

New York: Lt.-Col. Douglas Romaine Crier, an overseas veteran of World Wars I and II and commanding officer of the 23rd Internal Security Battalion in New York City died at the Yonkers General Hospital in December. A leader for many years in Negro organizations in Yonkers, Lt.-Col. Crier headed the Yonkers branch of the NAACP and other civic organizations.

Ohio: The Allen county branch gave a semi-formal testimonial dinner in honor of their president, Rev. Leroy McGee on January 6.

Pennsylvania: The Carver's youth council of the Erie branch, organized in 1949, now reports seventy-seven members. Branch officers are Dorothy Benz, president; Marlowe Tolbert, vice-president; Dorothy Beasob, secretary; Niravelt Myers, assistant secretary; Lavarn Allen, treasurer; and Richard Kennedy, parliamentarian.

Tennessee: Utillus Phillips, president of the Tennessee state conference of NAACP branches sends the following report: You are no doubt acquainted with the refusal of the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee to admit duly qualified Negroes. This action was taken despite the many court decisions to the contrary.

Under the circumstances, we have no other recourse than the courts to guarantee the constitutional rights of Negroes.

I am in touch with Attorney Looby who is handling the case in our behalf. He suggests that we should proceed with raising the necessary funds for court action. We will need to raise $5,000 through the state to cover the minimum cost of the case.

In my opinion, no more important case has come before the courts of Tennessee in recent years. It is to our interest and that of our young people to do all we can to see it through to a favorable conclusion. Our rights and freedom can be won only at the price of eternal vigilance and sacrifice.

MRS. MARY TOBIAS, *manager of the Men's and Women's handkerchief departments for Macy's, New York City.*

SOUTHWEST REGION

Marshall, Texas: When three judges of a federal appeals court reversed the district court decision of Judge T. Whitfield Davidson and thereby decreed that Negroes of Harrison county must henceforth be allowed full participation in all the voting machinery of the county, it virtually marked the victorious end of a dramatic and stubborn "battle for the ballot" Texas Negroes have waged for more than a quarter century.

Back in 1924, twenty-six years ago, the struggle was begun. Four times legal battles were fought all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court before; in 1944, the Lonnie Smith vs. Allwright decision from the High Court broke the back of the White Democratic Primary. Following this historic decision, Negroes in most parts of Texas and elsewhere in the South began to exercise the right of the ballot.

But in some areas in Texas as in some other southern states, Dixiecrat diehards used every possible loophole to try to circumvent the apparently final Supreme Court dictate. Among these dissidents was the Citizens Party of Harrison county, a body representing the actual election machinery of the county but composed of an all-white membership which sought to continue disfranchising Negsoes. The chief motive was fear, since the Harrison county population is predominantly Negro which, if allowed to vote, could not only constitute the balance of power but could actually come to control politics.

On April 22, 1949, two Marshall Negroes, James E. Perry and James McCary, filed suit in federal court to compel admission of Negroes to membership in the Citizens Party. Counsel were W. J. Durham of Dallas, Texas NAACP resident counsel, and U. S. Tate, NAACP regional counsel, associating. The case was heard before Judge Davidson, who ruled against Perry and McCary, holding that Negroes had both the right to organize their own private political party and to participate in the Democratic primary, and thus were not denied a constitutional right by being excluded from the Citizens Party. The case was immediately appealed by defendants and came to trial before the fifth district circuit court of appeals, judges Joseph C. Hutcheson, Wayne G. Borah and Leon McCord, sitting in Fort Worth.

In their opinion, written by Judge McCord, the three judges of the appeals court reversed Judge Davidson and ordered that Negroes of Harrison county must be given full right of membership in the Citizens Party or any other political setup.

"The primary election of the Citizens Party in which appellants seek to participate," said part of the opinion, "has effectively controlled the election of candidates for the various precinct and county offices in Harrison County, Texas, for over fifty years, and the admitted purpose for its present and continued existence is to exclude otherwise qualified Negro electors from voting solely because of their race and color. . . .

"We therefore conclude that the action of the Citizens Party in excluding appellants (Negroes) from voting solely because of their race and color must be characterized as the type of discrimination forbidden by the Constitution of the United States. . . .

"The cause is hereby reversed and remanded with directions to enter judgment enjoining and restraining appellees, their agents, employees or successors in office from excluding appellants from voting in the primary elections held by the Citizens Party of Harrison County solely because of their race and color."

Arguing the case before the Circuit Court of Appeals was Attorney Durham. The litigation was under joint auspices of the Marshall Progressive Voters League and the Marshall branch NAACP.

Dallas: In an opinion handed down on January 22, the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, fifth district, dismissed the lawsuit brought by a LaGrange, Texas parent, Julius Brown, against his school board for discriminating against his daughter and other Negro children in the matter of affording school facilities equal to those given whites.

In the trial before district judge Kennerly of Houston the decision had been adverse to Mr. Brown, and the case was before appeals judges Jos. C. Hutcheson, Wayne G. Borch and Leon McCord on appeal by Mr. Brown. As cause for dismissing the action, the circuit court judges held that Brown's daughter Vivian, on whose behalf directly the cause was brought, had renounced her right to act as plaintiff by completing her high school education in ort Worth. Said the opinion in part:

"On the whole case, therefore, it is our view that the judgment should be reversed and the cause remanded with directions to dismiss the complaint for want of equity in the plaintiff to maintain it."

It is noted that the circuit court declined to rule on whether or not facilities afforded Negro children were equal to those enjoyed by whites, in view of its decision that Miss Brown no longer had a right to sue for redress.

Attorneys in the case were W. J. Durham of Dallas and U. S. Tate, NAACP regional special counsel.

Dallas: A. Maceo Smith, Texas state NAACP secretary, was high in praise of the Houston NAACP-Sweatt Victory Fund Committee which reported a gross total of $9,570.58, raised for the purpose of defraying cost of Heman Marion Sweatt's living and education expenses while the famous plaintiff of the "Sweatt Case" secures his legal education, for which he fought four years, at the University of Texas.

"Too much commendation cannot be given the members and officers of the Houston Committee for successfully completing a fund raising effort in a worthy cause that should be a model the rest of our State might well emulate. Particular credit should go to Dr. John W. Davis, committee chairman; members of the executive committee Mrs. Lullelia Harrison, Felton Purnell and Walter Powell; and Carter Wesley and Mrs. C. V. Adair, executive secretary of the Houston branch NAACP. These people led a truly worthwhile movement enthusiastically and well, and they and their colleagues are chiefly responsible for the fact that all monies promised Mr. Sweatt are in hand for the entire three years of his legal education."

Mr. Sweatt, a married man with all consequent obligations, was an employee of the Houston Post Office, and the amount agreed upon that he was to receive, $11,500, represents approximately his three-year salary plus expenses incident to moving his home from Houston to Austin, where he now attends the law school of UT.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW —

That there are nearly a dozen references to Negroes in Martial's *Epigrams?*

In Epigram 1, 72, for example, the poet twits "Lycoris, who is blacker than the ripe mulberry," for believing "herself white when plastered with white lead."

College and School News

The WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL of Raleigh, N. C., recently played host to the annual meeting of the divisional committee of the Occoneeches Council Boy Scouts of America. Main feature of the evening was presentation of the Silver Beaver award to Plummer A. Williams.

■

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has signed a three-year contract with the AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE (Greensboro, N. C.) for an important dairy research project for the government. Under this project, A & T chemists will seek to solve the knotty problem of devising a quick simple test for determining the presence of bitter weed flavor in milk. It is estimated that the dairy industry in the southern states loses more than a million dollars annually because of consumer rejection of bitter flavored milk. The work will be directed by Dr. B. T. White, of the A & T chemistry department, under the general supervision of Dr. George E. Holm, head of the division of dairy products research of USDA's Bureau of Dairy Industry.

■

About 425,000 rural colored families were aided through the educational program of cooperative extension service of the U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE during the fiscal year which ended last June. Among those served, says Director M. L. Wilson, by a staff of 775 col-

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ored extension workers were 325,000 farm families and 100,000 non-farm families.

■

Morgan State College graduate Harriet Peat has been appointed medical social worker with the Harlem Tuberculosis and Health Committee, New York City. This newly created service of the HTHC will offer additional and specialized resources to TB patients and their families.

Miss Peat holds a social work certificate from Howard university and a master of science degree from the New York School of Social Work. She came to her New York post from the Maryland Tuberculosis Association.

■

Mid-year commencement exercises of West Virginia State College were held on January 28 in the college auditorium, with Dr. Charles H. Wesley, president of Wilberforce, delivering the convocation address. Following the address, President Davis conferred degrees upon thirty-nine candidates for graduation.

The romance language department of the college presented three French language films in the college auditorium on January 17. The films were Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" presented in two parts, "Jean Valjean" and "Cosette"; and two short films entitled "La Nuit des Temps" and "Voyage en Afrique."

■

The administration of Shaw University has given approval to the establishment of a "Shaw University Library Memorial Book Fund." Tentative plans call for a memorial book to be displayed in a special case in the library carrying the name of the honoree, a name of donors, and a listing of the books purchased. Initial contribution to this fund has been made by the family and friends of the late Mrs. Emma Bond Cheek, wife of Rev. G. E. Cheek, public relations director and alumni secretary of Shaw. Approximately $300 has been received to date.

■

Francis S. K. Whittaker, former dean at PRAIRIE VIEW A & M COLLEGE and now practicing law in Houston, is the author of a play, "Thirty Pieces of Silver," published in February by the Exposition Press, New York City.

■

The FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (N. Y.) school of social service is offering a course on community organization and cultural relations during the second semester. The course is under the direction of George K. Hunton, secretary of the Catholic Interracial Council, and consists of fourteen weekly two-hour lectures by outstanding leaders who are authorities in the field.

■

A course of eight lectures on the Catholic interracial movement sponsored by the Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council is being given by the St. Joseph's Commercial High School, Brooklyn, N. Y. The lecturers include George K. Hunton, editor of the *Interracial Review;* Archibald Glover, Catholic Negro and president of the Brooklyn Council; and Thomas Nevins, principal of the Decatur high school and

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former president of the Brooklyn Council.

■

The HARVARD and RADCLIFFE chapters of the NAACP have been devoting a great deal of their time and energies to a project for increasing the number of Negro students at the two schools.

The chapters point out that there is no discrimination in the admission policies of the two schools, and they have started a scholarship fund to encourage Negro students.

■

The METROPOLITAN MUSIC SCHOOL (New York City) is offering two new courses for the spring term, the art of accompaniment, and theory for the music instructor. Carroll Hollister, a graduate of Juillard, will teach the first course; Rudolf Jankel, head of the theory department of the Turtle Bay Music School, the second.

J. A. Rogers delivered the annual Negro history address of the Metropolitan Music School on February 12. Mr. Rogers, the well-known historian, spoke on "The Negro in Music and the Arts."

■

A seminar in India is announced by the SAN FRANCISCO STATE COLLEGE (San Francisco, California) for the forthcoming summer. The group will charter a plane and share expenses as a cooperative. Interviews with prominent leaders such as Prime Minister Nehru are assured. Stops will be made in Honolulu, Manila, Bangkok, and Singapore, and there will be extensive travel and study in India. Designed primarily for educators, speakers, and writers, the seminar will also be opened to qualified graduate students, and college credit is available in connection with it.

■

According to the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U. S. A., university Christian missions were held on 49 compuses whose students comprise a tenth of the nation's total college and university enrollment. Teams of four to fifteen speakers for each of these missions were chosen jointly by local campus committees and the National University Christian Mission Committee, headed by Dr. A. S. Kinsolving of New York City.

■

Fifty-five students made the dean's list at ALBANY STATE COLLEGE during the fall quarter.

Dr. Aaron Brown, president of Albany State, has been selected by Chancellor Harmon Caldwell to serve on a five-man committee to study and recommend policies regarding the academic qualifications and status of the teachers in the university system.

Albany State, with 353 students registered on the campus, is the only unit in the Georgia university system to show an on-campus increase this quarter.

■

President Horace Mann Bond of LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Pa.) announces that the will of the late Dr. John W. Brown, Lincoln '93, included a bequest of $70,000 for Lincoln university. This bequest, President Bond states, brings the total of gifts by Lincoln alumni to the insti-

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Founder's day address at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE was delivered by Dr. Miles W. Connor, president Coppin State Teachers College, on January 19.

■

The Honorable F. Edward Hebert, U. S. congressman from the first congressional district of Louisiana, recently presented DILLARD UNIVERSITY with an American flag of extreme historical value. The flag is the one which flew over the Capitol of the United States at Washington on April 12, 1945, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia.

President A. W. Dent announces that Dillard is going to try to secure $2,050,000 in the near future. Of this sum, $1,500,000 would be additional endowment, $500,000 for a science building, and $50,000 for library books.

The General Education Board has offered to give the university $200,000 toward the cost of a greatly needed science building on condition that Dillard raises an additional $300,000.

José Ferrer-Canales, visiting teacher of Spanish at Dillard, wrote an open letter in December to the president of The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Dr. William H. Shoemaker, protesting against barring of Negroes from convention headquarters in the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, and all professional and social meetings of the Association.

■

Sixteen students at TENNESSEE STATE COLLEGE will be listed in the 1950-51 edition of *Who's Who In American Universities and Colleges.*

Atty. Cecil Partee told TSC students in a recent address that job opportunities are "no longer iron, but plastic, and will melt under intelligent and thorough preparation and mastery of the fundamental processes." Atty. Partee, a TSC alumnus, was the winter quarter speaker in the W. S. Davis lecture series.

■

The Trevor Arnett Library at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY has placed a colorful collection of books, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, articles of wearing apparel, and miscellaneous handicrafts from India on exhibition in its foyer. Title of the collection is "Gandhi's India." Many of the items were loaned by Dr. Hazel Foster, a member of the faculty of the school of religion at Morehouse.

Alpha of Georgia chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, national honorary sociological fraternity, is offering two $25 cash awards for the best sociological paper writen on "The Impact of War on Marriage and the Family." One of the awards will be given to the best paper submitted by a college student, and the other to the best paper received from a graduate student. The awards will be presented during the June commencement exercises.

Dr. Matthew S. Davage, noted Methodist churchman and educator of Nashville, Tenn., was principal

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◆

Among recent speakers at Wilberforce University were Dr. Amiya Chakravarty, a native of Bengal, India; and Brigadier General Early, chief of the supply division at Wright-Patterson Air Field Base.

◆

Fifty-first founder's day was observed at Alabama State College on February 9. The day commemorated the 101st birthday of founder William Burns Paterson.

Ten ASC students were initiated into the national honorary fraternity Alpha Kappa Mu in January. Membership in AKM is based upon superior academic standing and outstanding leadership qualities.

Other recent events at the college include the appearance of Langston Hughes as the main speaker in observance of Negro history week; the presentation of the concert pianist Gabriel Fenyves on February 12; a concert on February 18 by the Spelman Glee Club; and a public program honoring the founders of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority given by Beta Nu Omega and Beta Pi chapters.

◆

In his first chapel appearance of the new year, Dr. Benjamin Mays, president of Morehouse College, told the students of the 85-year-old men's college that men in public office do a good job when they talk about the brutality of communism; but, he added, they do not say enough about *democracy* and the democratic freedom that is threatened by communism.

Morehouse history professor Melvin D. Kennedy has just published a historical work titled, *Lafayette and Slavery*. The book, issued by the American Friends of Lafayette, Easton, Penn., is based on the letters the great Frenchman wrote Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharp.

Mrs. Esther Emerson Sweeney, director of Community Services of the American Social Hygiene Association, gave a week of lectures in January to Morehouse students on social hygiene and its related problems.

Student delegates to the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth reported to the student body in January.

◆

The Booker T. Washington elementary school of Tulsa, Okla., has been renamed in honor of FISK UNIVERSITY president, Dr. Charles S. Johnson. Dr. Lillian Voorhees, university director of speech and dramatics, reported in January on the first National Theatre Assembly called by the American National Theatre and Academy January 2-4 at the Fulton theatre in New York City.

Recent speakers at Fisk include Langston Hughes, who gave readings from his latest volume of verse; Professor Robert Lacour-Gayet, official lecturer for Federation de l'Alliance Francaise aux Etats-Unis, who was guest at a seminar on European problems; Rabbi Sidney Ballon, who spoke on the art of religion; and a concert by William Allen, pianist, and a talk on "African Influence on Western Art" by Professor Walter Sharp of the Vanderbilt university art department.

◆

President R. B. Atwood announces a gift of $1,000 to KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE from Paul Blazer, president of the Ashland Oil and Refining Company of Ashland, Ky. This is Mr. Blazer's second gift to the institution.

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THE DEAN

Mrs. Helen Holmes has been invited to teach in the 1951 session of the Wisconsin State Teachers College summer school at Milwaukee, Wis. Josephine Davis, president of the college YWCA, and Ruth Moseley, chairman of the "Y" advisory committee, represented Kentucky State at the national assembly of the "Y" held at Miami university, Oxford, Ohio.

■

Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois delivered an address on "Individual Rights and Congressional Investigation" at Howard University on January 19.

Thirty Howard students will be listed in the 1950-51 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.*

■

Alumni citations, in behalf of the board of curators of Lincoln University (Mo.), were awarded in absentia by President Sherman D. Scruggs at the annual banquet commemorating founders' day on January 14. The event marked the annual observance in the eighty-fifth year of the university.

An expanded and intensified program of instruction in the Lincoln university school of journalism has led to the introduction of five courses, some new and some the result of combining others.

Lincoln will be host March 12-16 to the seventh annual ministers conference, sponsored by the university.

At least once a year since 1944 a box of books or a check comes as a gift to the Lincoln school of journalism library. The donor, now an advertising and public relations man in Boston, Mass., adds yearly to the journalism book collection in honor of his mother. Since Chester Smith established the Martha Bingham Clyce Memorial Collection in 1944, he has sent the journalism school 112 volume and $75 in cash, and a check for $50, sent in 1947, to be used for the purchase of 101 old newspapers and magazines.

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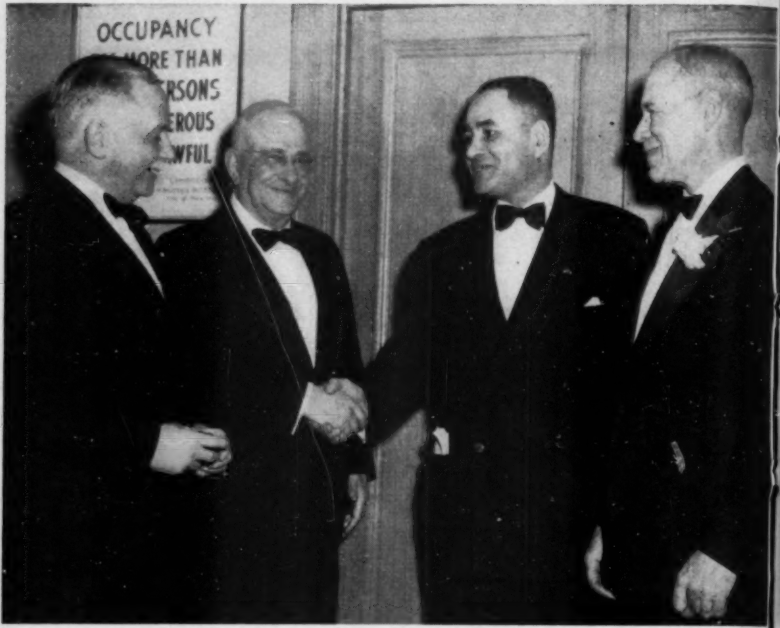
DR. BUNCHE DINNER—*Partial view of the speaker's table at the Dr. Ralph Bunche dinner, January 24, New York City: Left to right: Roy Wilkins, NAACP administrator; Ralph Samuel; Mrs. Walter White, wife of NAACP executive secretary Mr. White; Spyros Skouras and Mrs. Raymond Massey.* BOTTOM—*Also at the speaker's table were Bishop Francis J. McConnell, Lena Horne, Lessing Rosenwald, Mrs. Louis T. Wright, and Allen Merrell.*

* * *



Ac

BUNCHE HONORED AT DINNER—*Dr. Ralph J. Bunche is congratulated at a dinner sponsored by the NAACP at the Hotel Commodore, January* 24. *The dinner also launched the Association's* 1951 *campaign for membership and funds. Left to right*: *Walter White, executive secretary; Arthur Spingarn, NAACP president; Dr. Bunche; and Robert P. Patterson, who was chairman of the dinner committee.*

* * *

DID YOU KNOW —

That the kings of Dahomey, Africa, used to keep a census by the use of pebbles?

Two bags, one for boys and the other for girls, were kept at the entrance of every compound. When a baby was born the householder had to place a pebble in either one bag or the other, according to the infant's sex. Collected yearly and counted by the officials, the total number of pebbles gave the population of the country.

Book Reviews

***The Twenty-fifth Hour.* By C. Virgil Gheorghiu. Translated from the Romanian by Rita Eldon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1950. 404pp. $3.50.**

This apocalyptical novel combines exciting reading with a searing indictment of "our technological civilization." Molded by the machine, western man, according to our author, has become a therianthropic creature (that is, part bestial and part human) and a slave to the Moloch Technocracy. Personal choice, responsibility, and individual dignity are lost; our society and our governments have been transformed and corrupted. We are at the 25th Hour, which is now, one hour past the last hour, the hour when mankind is beyond salvation.

Our author illustrates his thesis through the story of a simple Romanian peasant, Johann Moritz, and his wife Susanna; Father Koruga, and his son Traian; Nora West, and other types. All these people are engulfed by catastrophes stemming from World War II. Johann is tossed into a concentration camp on the false accusation of being a Jew because a sergeant of police covets his wife. After he learns a little Yiddish, the authorities cannot believe he is not Jewish and refuse therefore to

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release him. He escapes to Hungary, to be shipped later as a Hungarian slave laborer to Germany. There he encounters a racially obsessed German colonel who decides that he is a pure Nordic type and immediately enrolls him in the German Army. With the invasion of Germany, Johann flees to the American lines; but the Yanks arrest him as an enemy soldier and intern him as a prisoner of war. By now no one is interested in his guilt or innocence, for Johann is the victim of a system.

One implication of this book is that America may have been the hope of civilization, but that she is no longer. *Ora 25* or the 25th Hour is a work of great emotive power, and when it was first published in French in 1949 it became an immediate literary sensation.

***D. H. Lawrence: Portrait of a Genius But . . .* By Richard Aldington. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950. X+432pp. $3.75.**

Readers of the novels of the late D. H. Lawrence will derive much pleasure and information from the reading of this portrait by one of Lawrence's close friends. Everyone seemed willing to concede Lawrence his genius—with reservations. Hence the "But . . ." of Mr. Aldington's title.

Lawrence was a great writer and the master of a beautiful, evocative English prose, yet he was perhaps the least endowed intellectually of any major modern novelist and held to the aberrant notion that real knowledge comes "of your belly and your *cazzo* as much as out of your brain and mind." In his personal life he was often spiteful, snobbish, petulant; given to fawning obsequiousness before titled women and childish pride in the fact that his wife was a German baroness. He was inquisitive, active, restless, dogmatic, and the victim of a wanderlust which kept him forever roaming from England to Italy, to Germany, to New Mexico, and back to Europe again. Yet more than any other modern writer, he exemplifies the heartaches, frustrations, and bewildering intellectual gropings of our times.

It is with the assistance of autobiographical passages from Lawrence's novels that Mr. Aldington portrays his friend in all his teasing and baffling contradictions, virtues, and failings.

***Mister Jelly Roll:* The Fortunes of Jelly Roll Morton, New Orleans Creole and "Inventor of Jazz." By Alan Lomax. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950. XVII 318pp. $3.50.**

***They All Played Ragtime:* The True Story of an American Music. By Rudi Blesh and Harriet Janis. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1950. XVIII 332pp. $4.00.**

These two books complement each other, covering as they do the origin and evolution of America's only original music, jazz and ragtime. Mr. Lomax allows Ferdinand La Menthe or Jelly Roll Morton to tell the story of jazz in his own words, which Jelly Roll did every day for a month in the chamber music auditorium of the Library of Congress as he talked into Mr. Lomax's recording machine. In this way the story becomes part social chronicle and part autobiography. The Blesh-Janis volume centers its story around the genius of Scott Joplin and other originators of ragtime. Both books are enteraintingly written and are significant contributions to American history. The Blesh-Janis tome indulges near the beginning in a little racial mysticism with its claim that "Negro music" is racial, as if it were transmitted through the genes and not socially. The quite obvious fact that the "American Negro" is a biological melange makes any "blood" inheritance nonsense. Mr. Lomax is sometimes uncritical and over enthusiastic in his praise of Jelly Roll, but all in all his book is a well balanced study of a genius and the milieu which produced him.

EDITING CRISIS

(*Continued from page* 151)

est in a conventional organ; I must be Free Lance or nothing.

Against, therefore, the strong pleas of close friends like Joel Spingarn; and against the openly expressed wish of the whole Board, which did not wholly agree with me, but were willing to yield much to retain me, I resigned. And I resigned completely and not in part. I was not only editor and head of a department which was separate from that of the Executive Secretary, with my own office and staff and separate bank account; I was also one of the incorporators of the NAACP and member of the Board of Directors since its beginning. Its officials from the first had come to consideration and election on my recommendation. I was a member of the Spingarn Medal Committee, and chief speaker at every annual conference. It was fair to say that the policy of the NAACP from 1910 to 1934 was largely of my making.

I would not have been honest therefore with my successors to have resigned in part and hung on to remnants of my former power. I went out completely. I think some sighed in relief. But many were genuinely sorry. Among the latter was myself. For I was leaving my dream and brainchild; my garden of hope and highway to high emprise. But I was 65; my life work was practically done. I looked forward to a few final years of thought, advice and remembrance, beneath the trees and on the hills beside the graves and with the friends where first my real life-work had begun in 1897.

40th ANNIVERSARY

(*Continued from page* 146)

zenship and undemocratic practices.

It is *The Crisis* and the NAACP that have pounded a firm path to the high level of citizenship the Negro now enjoys in the United States.

With the movement towards brotherhood now gathering momentum all over the world, the resolution, vision and unfaltering courage of *The Crisis* is needed now more than ever before to point the way towards social decency and the Golden Rule.

FRANK L. STANLEY

President, The Louisville Defender

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to you on your 40th anniversary. Few organs have remained consistently in existence so long. The reason is obvious when one considers the many problems involved.

The Crisis has served a very useful purpose and has had some of our best and most militant journalistic minds connected with it. May there always be THE CRISIS!

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